



## Demon's Cage

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### Synopsis :

An underground Virtual Reality Game without any protection, a group of power, wealth, and blood hungry players!

Qin Ran, who doesn't have much time left, chose to enter, for a chance to continue living.

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### Info :

<http://www.novelupdates.com/series/demons-cage/>

### Raws :

<http://www.qidian.com/Book/3686542.aspx>

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<http://www.noodletowntranslated.com/demons-cage/>

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Volume 1 – My War!

# Chapter 1: Loading

It was July. The sunlight was scorching, and even the thick curtains couldn't completely block the burning sunlight. It poured in through the curtains and formed a rectangular beam of light, acting as the only light source in the room.

Ring!

The telephone sounded again. After three consecutive rings, the phone automatically switched to the recording.

"Is this Qin Ran? I'm Dr. Wang. You only have a year left until you turn eighteen and if you don't begin your gene therapy, then you'll completely lose this opportunity!"

The doctor repeated his usual comments and gave his recommendations.

Qin Ran was indifferent and disregarded it. He looked down and concentrated on the game card in his hands. It was bright red and the size of a thumbnail.

After confirming, Qin Ran slid the game card which cost him all of his savings into the slot inside his virtual helmet.

Beep!

The lights on the virtual helmet turned from red to green.

“Beep, beep, beep!” Game manufacturer not detected. Security unknown. Please proceed with caution!

The virtual helmet speaker gave a warning, but Qin Ran didn't care. An underground game obviously wouldn't have registered manufacturers and security.

A year ago, this legendary 100% virtual reality (VR) game came onto the market.

Logically speaking, a 100% VR game should've been far more popular than the 30%-40% VR games that were on the market.

However, reality was the opposite; before it came on the market, it had been prohibited. All because the game was too real! If you died in the game, you'd die in real life.

Less than 1/10 of the 3000 private players were currently alive and had left the game.

With the deaths of thousands of people, it was obvious that the game would never be allowed on the market. However, Qin Ran had later on heard that real money was added to the game in order to provide players an incentive to play the game. Because of this, the game thrived and became an 'underground game' in a true sense – only a few people had access to it.

Looking past the secretive purchasing channels and the large amounts of money one could obtain, the prospect of death in both the game and real life stopped most people from playing.

However, Qin Ran didn't care.

If he couldn't raise three million for the cost of his treatment within a year, he would undoubtedly die because he suffered from a viral-gene disease.

For the rich, three million was nothing, but for Qin Ran it was an astronomical figure.

Since three years ago when he was diagnosed with the disease, Qin Ran tried to save money.

However ..... money was like a drop in the bucket!

Three years ago, Qin Ran was an ordinary 14 year old junior high school student who had no qualifications or expertise, nor could he even do physical labor. Because of his age, he was completely unqualified.

He could only do odd jobs.

But no matter what kind of odd jobs he did, he wouldn't have been able to afford the three million treatment. Even with only five hours of sleep a day and three part-time jobs, Qin had only managed to save up thirty

thousand.

That amounted to just one percent of his medical expenses. Qin Ran felt despair! He had a lot of expectations and fantasies in his life. As a result ..... he didn't want to die.

But reality had left him with death!

It was around this time that he heard a rumor at the goldsmith studio. It was about the 'underground game'. There was a rumor saying that a random ultimate equipment could be sold for millions of dollars!

After confirming the authenticity of the claim, Qin decided to take a chance.

He used all his savings from the past three years and bought a game card for this underground game and decided to fight for his life.

"Conquer or die!" Qin Ran silently thought.

Wearing the helmet, Qin Ran lay on the bed. Everything went black, and then a piece of text along with the voice began –

(Hint: a new instance for players is a rare opportunity!)

When all the text appeared, it paused for about three minutes to allow Qin Ran enough time to read it. Suddenly, a dazzling bright light shined in front of him. Even when he closed his eyes, he still felt extremely

uncomfortable. Hence, he had to cover his eyes with his hands. Then, he went into a state of weightlessness and accelerated downwards.

The whole process lasted about one or two seconds.

When Qin Ran felt everything go back to normal, he put down his hands and opened his eyes.

Suddenly, Qin widened his eyes.

Less than a meter away in front of him was an eviscerated corpse leaning against a wall, with its head slightly tilted upwards. Its cloudy eyes were looking at Qin Ran as if they were staring at each other.

Qin Ran immediately felt short of breath. Since he was young, Qin Ran never seen a human corpse. At most, he'd seen some bloody fights.

At this time, the dead body appearing in front of him immediately made Qin fall into panic and fear. He almost instinctively retreated back until he hit stopped at the wall behind.

Bang!

Colliding with the wall gave him a lot of pain. However, the pain allowed Qin Ran to slightly recover from his panic and regain a bit of rationality.

"This is a game! This is a game! Even if it's one hundred percent real, it's



still a game!"

This reasoning made Qin Ran think about his experience in this environment.

He didn't really encounter a dead body. He just entered the game world.

But in front of him, the bloody and rotten corpse made Qin Ran need to find more concrete evidence to convince himself.

"Status!"

Qin said.

Because Qin Ran once worked at the goldsmith studio, some virtual controls of the game weren't new to him. Fortunately, some of the game rules were generic. The 'underground game' was no exception.

After Qin Ran said that, the attribute fields visible only to himself appeared in front of his eyes.

The properties were divided into three pages –

Qin Ran looked through it: the first page showed his basic stats while the second page showed his character's attributes.

The third page displayed his skills, equipment and inventory, but right now it was empty.

(Rating: an absolute rookie even worse than cannon fodder!)

That final evolution was a joke, causing Qin Ran to smile.

The system bar undoubtedly proved that all the things in front of him were part of a game!

Even with one hundred percent authenticity!

Woo!

Woo!

Qin Ran took deep breaths as he put aside the horror earlier and calmed himself down completely.

After he calmed down, he subconsciously looked at the gutted corpse!

In real life, a corpse would cause fear and panic, but in a game, it represented another meaning: gold coins and equipment!

Qin Ran certainly didn't forget his purpose in joining the game: to get enough money to treat his viral-gene disease.

To do this, he needed enough strength in the game.

Only with power could he get more coins and good enough equipment that he could exchange for real-world money.

But with his current negligible properties, skills, equipment, empty backpack, and even the “worse than cannon fodder” evaluation, he naturally didn’t have such strength.

Therefore, he needed time to make himself stronger.

However, he didn’t that much time!

One year had passed in real life!

As for the game?

Qin Ran wasn’t sure, but based on other virtual games, the time in the game shouldn’t have been much longer than real time.

Therefore, he needed to seize all the opportunities to make himself stronger.

Right now in front of Qin, there was such an opportunity.

Fighting the discomfort in his heart, Qin Ran slowly approached the body.

Even if he knew that it was just a game, the one hundred percent reality made it so flipping the body was no different from flipping a real body for Qin Ran.

Even worse, the bloody stench coming off the corpse was so disgusting that Qin Ran puked over and over.

Qin Ran subconsciously avoided eye contact with the corpse's cloudy eyes and his disembowelling wound. He just searched the body.

After a while, Qin Ran's eyes suddenly brightened.

He looked at the straps in his left hand and slightly pulled on it, causing a backpack to fall down from the body.

This backpack was hidden very well. Moreover, from the body's posture, if Qin Ran wasn't careful enough, it would be hard to find.

Being so carefully hidden, there would naturally be some good stuff in it.

Subconsciously, Qin Ran started staring at the backpack in his hands.

## Chapter 2: Stabbing in the Back

The backpack wasn't too large.

Otherwise, it wouldn't have been hidden by the body.

It was an ordinary sized backpack; the two fasteners divided it into two pockets.

He couldn't wait, so Qin opened the two fasteners.

However, the result made Qin Ran disappointed.

There were three cans, a bottle of purified water and a tattered book. There weren't any coins and equipment that Qin Ran had expected. However, Qin Ran was immediately relieved.

Even in the completely real 'underground game', some of the general rules of the game still existed. According to the usual rules, this was the 'beginner village'.

To obtain powerful equipment in a "new village" was clearly impossible.

Sighing, Qin checked what he got.

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When his finger touched the can and water, columns of information directly appeared in Qin Ran's sight without affecting his awareness.

Next, Qin Ran looked at the tattered book.

When he touched it, the information bar appeared-

Qin Ran subconsciously opened the tattered diary. There were scribbles and many places had been stained. He simply couldn't see it clearly.

Thus, the entire contents of the diary was messy and disordered-

October 21, overcast

The war lasted for four months. Food, water, and medicine shortages occurred. Gunfire sounded everywhere, but fortunately the rebels weren't searching day and night. They only did their daily routines, touring around during the daytime and then returning to their camps. What's appalling was that those thugs took advantage of the nights. Like locusts, they robbed anything we had.

October 27, clear

Damn it! I was robbed! My only can of food and water were robbed! What should I do?

October 29, overcast

I can't wait! I want to do something while I still have the strength in me!

November 1, clear

Hahaha, I really have good luck, it was a big catch! Not only did I find food, but I also found a weapon! Please call me lucky Dell!

November 11, clear

Lucky Dell is going to attack again. This time it'll be another rewarding experience!

.....

The diary stopped there.

Obviously, it wasn't lucky like the person had described.

Qin Ran looked at the body.

Although he was still somewhat uncomfortable, Qin Ran didn't turn his head away this time.

Because of that messy diary, Qin obtained some basic information, but he found some clues as well: there should be a weapon somewhere near

the body.

For Qin Ran who was unarmed, a weapon was naturally essential!

This way, he would be able to have a sense of security and self-protection.

Based on information from the diary, his surroundings weren't safe.

To survive for seven days wasn't easy.

"I hope I'm not lost!"

Thinking about this, Qin Ran reached out his hands and started searching again.

This time he was more careful than his earlier inspection.

The thick and dried blood inevitably stuck to Qin Ran's hands, making him want to puke, but if he was rewarded, it would be worth it.

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Qin Ran found dagger by the corpse's waist. Because the body was covered in clothing, only a careful search would discover it.



He also found a lighter in the pocket.

Qin Ran picked up the slightly rusty dagger and wiped the lighter. After two or three attempts, a small flame appeared.

Using the light emitting from the flame, Qin Ran could see clearly that there wasn't just some rust on the dagger. The bright red stains were clearly something else.

So what was it?

Qin Ran realized it after he read the diary.

The city was no longer in order as the civilians were trapped in the city and faced starvation. The city had become extremely dangerous. When they encountered the rebels, they were defenseless, but when they encountered other civilians, they became thugs.

It was just like the corpse in front of him!

Looking at the body again, Qin Ran put the cans and water in his backpack. Then, he put the lighter in his shirt pocket. When entering the game world, his clothing had already become dirty like those of the civilians. Fortunately, it wasn't broken.

After Qin took the dagger, he was ready to leave.

The empty room didn't give Qin Ran any reason to stay.

Through the obstructed windows, he could see that the sunlight was disappearing, so he urgently needed to leave.

The night was when mobs came out.

Therefore, Qin Ran wasn't going to stay at this conspicuous place.

Houses were likely to become thugs' targets when searching.

"The drains and sewers are probably the most suitable places to hide!"

Qin Ran was contemplating where he'd hide for the night.

It didn't have to be comfortable; it just had to be well hidden to be a great place.

Underground was definitely his first choice, since people wouldn't normally look in those areas.

Of course, other people might be hiding there as well, but those people were definitely a lot safer than thugs.

Opening the door, Qin Ran saw a slanted corridor, and on the opposite side was another opened door. It was empty inside; apparently, it had already been evacuated.

Through the corridor, he walked to a gate.

Just as Qin Ran was ready to move-

Bang!

The gate was flung open and a shadow fell on the floor. Then, another shadow appeared, laughing with a low voice.

The moment the door was forced open, Qin Ran went back to his room and held the dagger in his hand, carefully listening to what was happening.

"Oh, great discovery! There's a woman here!"

That laughter had an undisguised excitement.

"Go away!" The woman yelled. Listening to the noise, Qin could imagine the woman retreating back on the floor.

However, just then, Qin Ran's face changed. The sounds were becoming clearer.

The other person was approaching him!

At the end of the corridor, there was another room. Qin Ran was in the

room next to it. Once the man came to the end of the hallway, he would enter one of the rooms.

It was either Qin Ran's room or the empty room. It was a 50% chance.

Qin Ran had layers of sweat form in his hand that was holding the dagger.

He's getting close!

Closer!

Qin Ran was nervous. However, this uneasiness didn't change the fact that the man was approaching.

When that women retreated back into the room where Qin Ran was hiding, Qin Ran stopped breathing.

The woman was shocked. Obviously, she didn't expect that there would be someone else hiding here.

However, the next moment she returned to normal.

She kept moving backwards and didn't give Qin Ran a glance. She wasn't even crying for help.

This made Qin Ran very surprised. However, the approaching footsteps

quickly alerted Qin Ran.

The woman in the front of him might not be dangerous, but the man approaching him definitely was.

If Qin Ran was found out, the man would definitely choose to fight him.

This upcoming battle would ultimately end up in someone being killed.

Qin Ran knew this very well.

His body wasn't strong and he didn't have any fighting skills. Comparing to a thug that had survived in the war for four months, Qin Ran was like a piece of cake.

However, it wasn't like he had absolutely no chance.

Qin Ran looked at the lady on the ground.

She looked very calm, but her eyes indicated something which made Qin Ran understand her intention. He held his breath and concealed himself as best he could.

Tap, tap, tap.

The sounds made by the man's shoes stepping on the wooden floor was not only clear, but also powerful. He was like a beastly predator

showing off his strength.

"Don't come any closer!"

The woman stayed in a corner. Her furry voice had a deep sense of despair.

This triggered more and more interest from her pursuer.

He didn't even notice that there was another person in the room. He was totally entranced by the lady.

He laid his eyes all over his prey, completely exposing his back to Qin Ran.

Qin didn't hesitate as he slowly and silently raised his dagger.

Then, he suddenly stabbed at the man.

Poof!

## Chapter 3: Skills

Under Qin Ran's charged attack, half of the dagger was stabbed into the pursuer's back.

Blood flowed out the wound instantly.

"Ahh!"

The pursuer screamed, and his body instinctively moved forward.

Qin closely followed, with his left hand holding his right hand pressing down on the dagger. However, the dagger didn't go any deeper.

"Damn, it's stuck in his bones!"

Qin Ran subconsciously pulled out the dagger.

Poof!

Warm blood sprayed out, pouring in Qin Ran's face and blocking his vision.

He became even more panicked with his vision blurred. He could only wave the dagger in the air crazily.

At that moment, Qin Ran only had one thought: he couldn't give the man any time or he'd end up dead himself!

Supporting himself, Qin Ran waved the dagger with lightning speed!

Then, he heard the sound of metal puncturing flesh.

After throwing several swings with his dagger, Qin Ran was stunned to realize that he knew very clearly how to use the dagger now.

Its use wasn't just for blindly piercing the skin!

It should be used to stab someone!

Avoiding hard bones and looking for soft muscles to stab!

Qin Ran's body almost instinctively did that.

The next moment, Qin Ran slightly recovered from his blurred vision. He held the dagger and used his elbow as a makeshift spring.

Haha!

The dagger pierced the chest of the pursuer and was lodged down in it.



The pursuer was holding a double-edged kitchen knife and was ready to fight back, but then he unbelievably saw the dagger inserted into his chest. He fell straight to the ground.

To his death, the pursuer never understood how such a harmless guy had suddenly become so deadly.

Qin Ran was also surprised. He looked at the dead body on the ground. The pungent smell of blood lying on the ground from the man reminded him of what he had done.

Vomit!

Facing a real body, the red blood stimulated Qin Ran. As he thought of how the man was killed by himself, he couldn't help throwing up.

After puking, he was weak and kneeled on the ground.

His runny nose seemed very embarrassing.

"Have you thrown up enough yet?"

A husky voice sounded, and Qin Ran subconsciously looked up.

He saw a dusty face, and her shiny gray eyes had a look of indifference and attentiveness.

"I....."

"This trophy is yours. I won't take it from you!"

Qin Ran wanted to say something, but she interrupted him. At the same time, the lady leaned close to the wall. Staring at Qin Ran, she walked step by step along the walls towards the exit.

She didn't trust him!

Moreover, she was on full alert!

Looking at her actions, Qin Ran suddenly realized something.

Qin Ran didn't say anything and made no moves. He was worried that she would misunderstand and cause unnecessary trouble.

In his current feeble state, Qin Ran didn't think he'd be able to cope with such trouble.

Therefore, Qin Ran quietly watched her leave.

After she had completely disappeared, Qin Ran felt relieved and stood up.

"Although she's seems cold, she's a good person!" Qin Ran sighed.

Although the city was no longer in order, she didn't try to take advantage of Qin's hardships. Even though she was cold and careful, she was sincere and nice, which was at least several times better than those thugs!

After sighing, he looked at the system prompt.

It was this skill that turned him from a complete novice using daggers into an expert. This was how he killed his rival.

Qin became curious of these skills as he looked through the combat log.

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(Label: key attack = actual attack damage X2)

"Three consecutive attacks?"

Qin Ran said to himself, then quickly turned to the skill bar.

The originally empty skill bar now had a new skill added.

As Qin Ran gazed at it, comments quickly appeared on the screen only visible to Qin Ran.

"Destructive force increased by 10%?"

Qin Ran looked at the notes, then compared the combat log with before.

He quickly went to the dead body and quickly pulled out the dagger inserted in the chest.

When he held the dagger, the familiar feeling instantly rose again in his heart, and he subconsciously stabbed forward with the dagger again.

It was like he'd practiced for thousands or even millions of times.

Whoosh!

The sound of sharp metal piercing the body could be heard.

Quickly, without the slightest tremble, the dagger was stabbed into the enemy's chest just like in Qin Ran's imagination.

The whole process was no different than when he had killed the pursuer.

It was totally fast, accurate and relentless!

"This is just 10%? Also, it's possible to achieve this effect after only three consecutive attacks?"

Qin Ran whispered incredulously.

He couldn't imagine that a 10% improvement would make such a great difference.

For Qin Ran, this 10% increase combined with strength, speed and experience. Without many years of training, it was simply impossible to achieve.

Moreover, after landing only three attacks, Qin Ran achieved a level that others would take years to reach.

Qin Ran didn't think that he had more talent than others, or that he could be called a genius.

But in the present situation, even a genius couldn't achieve this, right?

Qin was thinking.

Suddenly, he thought of something.

"The tip?!"

Qin Ran thought of the hint that he saw when he entered the game.

Immediately, he read through the system records –

(Hint: A new instance for players is a rare opportunity!)

At the bottom of the records, game tips were clearly visible.

Qin Ran's eyes were drawn to the words 'rare opportunity' for a moment, and then he took a long breath.

"Despite this underground game being very realistic, some rules of the game haven't changed. A rookie would never be immediately placed in extremely dangerous situations, but rather face experiences of increasing danger! If I'm able to take the opportunities, I'll gradually obtain the power to tackle the crisis!"

Qin Ran thought.

But soon, he frowned.

He thought that if he didn't carefully examine the corpse and search for weapons, then how would he end up?

Thinking of the possible outcomes, Qin Ran became scared.

"No wonder only one-tenth of the players survived in this 'underground game'! I'm afraid that for those players, many of them lost their lives because they were reckless, right?"

While thinking, he leaned down and started checking the body.

Earlier when he looked at the combat log after killing the thug, Qin Ran found that he gained no experience points (XP), but he still had skills marked with the word 'basic'.

Apparently he could enhance their level!

Plus, the game was very straightforward in its explanation: he had entered an instance.

Based on his previous game experience, he wouldn't directly gain XP, but rather he needed to pass the current instance and complete the area to get points.

His point score would directly affect his harvest.

But how could he gain more points?

Besides side quests in the game, obtaining points relied on his performance in the game.

Also, according to Qin Ran's understanding, his performance was determined by his monster kills, equipment, gold and so on.

For side quests, Qin Ran temporarily had no idea.

As for killing monsters, getting equipment and gold, etc., Qin Ran was very familiar with the process.

After all, shortly before he searched the thug's body, he had already searched another one.

Moreover, he killed the second man!

The pungent smell of blood was still lingering.

Even after killing the man, Qin Ran still disgusted by the smell. However, he was getting a little more used to it.

At least now Qin Ran was no longer vomiting from it.

Moreover, he wasn't afraid anymore.

The first thing Qin Ran picked up was the kitchen knife; as he touched it, the details of the knife appeared in front of his eyes.

He looked at it, then he put the kitchen knife in his backpack and continued the search.

Soon, Qin Ran found something new.



## Chapter 4: Gun Fired

Now he had half a box of cigarettes, and there was a lighter. The items he got from the thug were similar to the ones Qin Ran had obtained before. They were all considered his inventory, and most of it was damaged.

Qin Ran found some cigarettes and put it into his jacket pocket along with the lighter. Qin Ran didn't smoke, because it was bad for his health and because he didn't have money.

Because he was diagnosed with the viral-gene disease, he would rather have two meals a day than buy a pack of cigarettes, so Qin Ran stayed away from it.

However, in the game Qin Ran didn't mind. Of course, now wasn't the time.

Qin then bent down again and carefully searched the body. After he made sure that there was nothing left, he decided to leave. Night had come and Qin Ran didn't want to stay in this house and wait to be found by the mobsters. He needed to find a more secluded and safe hiding place for himself.

Then, he carefully thought about what to do next. Through the empty corridors and halls, Qin Ran stood at the door, reached out his head and looked outside. He saw the collapsed buildings, gravel and rubble.

All ruined!

He made sure that there was no other people here, then he sneaked out and went to an already collapsed wall. This probably used to be a side wall of a house.

Looking at its height, it was at least a three-story house. Now however, it was reduced to half the height of a human, with lots of gravel and bricks on the side.

Qin Ran shrunk in the shadow of the wall and glanced around. Even though everything was ruined, according to the building's location and appearance, this was supposed to be a residential area.

Besides, it was a rich residential area. Within such an area, drains, sewers and other similar facilities were bound to exist. Even more, there might even be a separate underground space.

For Qin Ran, this was definitely good news, because it meant that he didn't need to face more survivors.

Under the premise that survivors could become mobsters at any time, Qin Ran believed what the fewer people he encountered, the better off he'd be.

He kept sneaking forward. He was looking forward to entering the underground wells or a gate valve.

Qin spent about thirty minutes looking for it. Within this time, Qin Ran

found two well lids. Unfortunately, the first one was covered by bricks. Even though he could see it, opening it was impossible. He'd have to clean up a pile of bricks above without making noise.

Once he made a sound, it would inevitably attract survivors or mobsters.

Qin Ran saw at least two armed men wandering around right now.

The two of them didn't see Qin Ran, however. Moreover, he didn't intend to fight the two of them.

Therefore, Qin Ran carefully hid. After they left, he continued to move forward. Then Qin found the second well lid. However, he had trouble with it like the previous one. It was even more difficult to open than the first one he encountered.

As he was trying to open the lid, he saw two people in a conflict. One man was armed with wooden sticks and the other one had rebar in his hand.

In the middle of the two people was a well lid leading to the underground. Qin Ran didn't want to attract the two men's attention, so he kept his actions quiet in order not to be noticed by them.

They looked at each other, then Qin Ran frowned. He didn't intend to participate and didn't expect any benefits from interfering with them.

Unless one of them could kill the other one silently, the one who'd die

would scream and attract all the mobsters around.

At that time, Qin would have to face a lot of armed guys instead of just one or two.

But could any of these two guys silently kill the other?

If that happened, Qin Ran would still be glad that he decided to leave, because if one of them had the ability to kill the other easily, he could kill Qin Ran as well.

Then, Qin Ran made a decision. He looked at the two people and snuck back as he tried to not make any noise.

However, his plan became useless as he stepped on a broken log.

Poop!

The sound made Qin Ran stop.

Damn it!

He didn't realize that there were broken logs in his path. The two guys in confrontation looked at Qin Ran. In order not to make the situation even worse, Qin Ran walked out and put up his hands, indicating that he intended no harm.

"It's you?!" One of them suddenly said. The husky voice suddenly reminded Qin Ran of her identity.

She was the woman he had met before. The other guy suddenly retreated back. Just like how Qin Ran didn't want to fight two-on-one, so did the other guy.

Although the guy couldn't get much information, he realized that from what the lady said, they knew each other. This was enough of a reason for him to leave.

Qin Ran shrugged his shoulder.

Qin had 80% confidence that the lady made a sound in order to make the atmosphere less intense and to solve her current predicament.

It was just like earlier inside the house.

The lady had definitely discovered Qin Ran beforehand, but to kill the mobster more efficiently, she pretended to be pathetic and scared in order to attract the mob into her trap.

As a result, this lady was smart and devious. Facing this type of lady, Qin Ran didn't want to anger her.

Moreover, he had to repay her kindness earlier. Qin Ran thought that she could be a person who he could communicate with. He didn't mind trading some of his items for some important information from her.

"I..."

Bang!

A gunshot interrupted him. The other guy's head burst just like a watermelon had been grinded by a car tire. Meanwhile, two guys with grim smiles on their faces walked out of the darkness.

Qin Ran looked at the body, then at the two guys with guns; he jumped and hid behind a wall. He didn't want to be within their shooting range.

"Damn it!"

Like Qin Ran, the lady hid behind the wall and cursed when she heard the gunfire.

"Why does the 'Vulture' have his people around here? Son of a b\*\*ch!"

Qin Ran could clearly see the fear on her obscured face.

"'Vulture'?" Qin Ran asked.

He certainly wasn't so native as to think that she was taking about a real vulture. It was definitely a nickname. With such a nickname, Qin Ran didn't believe that he would be a nice guy. After all, in the animal kingdom, the vulture was famous for scavenging corpses and eating flesh.

If a person had this name.....

Qin subconsciously thought of that fallen and headless corpse, then his body became somewhat stiff.

"Calm down!" Qin Ran told himself, trying to overcome his fear. He passed the kitchen knife to the lady beside him. Right now, having one more person to help was definitely better.

A kitchen knife was much better than a wood stick.

The lady understood what Qin Ran meant. She took the knife and held it firmly. After four months of war, the lady had experienced a lot to stay alive. Also, she had faced a lot more dangerous situations than Qin Ran did. As a result, she knew what to do.

"One of us will attract their attention while the other one attacks!" she said.

Qin Ran was shocked. Since their opponents had guns, trying to attract their attention would be very risky.

If they weren't lucky, death was guaranteed. Qin Ran didn't want to die like this. As a result, he subconsciously rejected this suggestion. However, the lady continued on before he rejected.

"I will attract their attention! You're good at using a dagger and I'm

good at hiding. This is the best plan!"

Clop, clop, clop...

Someone was approaching without trying to hide. Apparently, they didn't care about Qin Ran at all.

"Don't kill me!" The lady was screaming. She ran to the ruins in another direction.



## Chapter 5-Killing:

Looking at her running away, Qin Ran was shocked.

When she suggested "Someone to attract attention while someone else attacks", Qin Ran subconsciously thought that she was trying to get him to catch their attention.

However, she took the higher risk.

"Haha, we found something!"

The lady's screaming and the mobsters' laughter awakened Qin Ran from his thoughts.

Qin Ran didn't escape. He wasn't going to give up the change.

He held the dagger and ran out.

One of the mobsters was in the front and another followed. They were both attracted by the scream, but the latter one was looking around vigilantly.

When Qin Ran jumped out, the latter mobster noticed him first and was going to shoot.

"Damn it!"

Qin Ran startled.

He clearly knew that he couldn't escape from bullets, and the mobster was only three meters away. At this distance, it was impossible for him to stop the mob before the gun fired.

A dead end!

He could smell his death.

Cold and frightening!

But even more than fear, was the instinct to live when facing death.

Just because of this instinct, he tirelessly raised money for his treatment instead of giving up hopelessly.

As a result, he wasn't giving up at this moment as well.

He didn't stop moving. He widened his eyes, staring at the two mobsters with guns.

His head was spinning, looking for a chance to live.

And the mobsters laughed with disdain and contempt.

They had seen dying people struggling for the last charge against them at least seven or eight times, before they killed them.

They couldn't remember the exact number.

However, it didn't matter. Including the one charging at them right now, it was nine!

However, Qin Ran stepped to the right as he was moving forward rapidly.

The gun then moved towards the right along with him. But the mobster was suddenly stunned.

"Right now!"

Qin Ran suddenly accelerated even faster, bowed down and hit the mobster with the gun.

Then his dagger was stabbed into the mobster's heart like a bullet, avoiding the ribs.

Poof!

The blood came out as he pulled out the dagger.

The warm liquid splashed on Qin Ran's face once again. However, with previous experience, he closed his eyes when he pulled out the dagger.

His actions, however, didn't pause because of the mobster's death.

Because he knew, that his real opponent was the one behind him.

Qin Ran exhausted his strength, grabbed the body as a shield and thrust forward.

Bang!

Qin Ran, the body and the other opponent all fell to the ground.

The body was on the mobster, and Qin Ran fell to the side.

Qin Ran quickly stood up and ran to the mobster.

The mobster felt the danger and started fighting to get up but the weight of the body on him was more than he expected. Before he pushed the body aside, Qin Ran had already arrived.

Qin Ran slammed into the body on the gunman without the slightest mercy, so that the mobster could barely fight back. Then the dagger was stabbed into his hand that was holding the gun.

The gun!

This was the mob's greatest dependence, and Qin Ran's greatest fear.

The metal blade stabbed cleanly through his wrist.

"Ahh!"

Screaming, the gunmen dropped the gun. Qin Ran did not stop, he suddenly stabbed into another crucial point: the neck.

Compared to the chest blocked by the body on top of him, the neck was clearly visible for Qin Ran.

Poof!

The dagger stabbed through the throat, so the screams abruptly halted.

With a prompt fight record, Qin Ran suddenly fell to the ground and breathing.

Although the fight was less than five seconds, it consumed a great amount of mental and physical power from Qin Ran.

From hiding from the gunmen to escape, and then sneak attacking, Qin Ran did his best. When the two gunmen were killed, he felt dizzy and had to lay on the ground.

Even with the pungent smell of blood, Qin Ran didn't want to move.

Besides, it seemed like he had become used to it.

What a terrible habit!

He laughed at himself.

However, between the choice of killing or dying, he definitely had no choice.

With his smile, he looked at his status bar.

The physical power bar dropped from 100 to 20 points.

However, as he was taking breaths, his power bar was recovering with a speed of 1-2 points per second.

As a result, after a few seconds, he could stand up again.

He quickly took away all the trophies from the bodies.

...

There were two M1905 guns and 6 bullets. Other than that there was

nothing else.

Holding the M1905 gun, Qin Ran felt much safer now.

He then looked back.

"Clear!" He signaled the lady.

However, she didn't come forward immediately.

The lady who had survived four months in war was not only vigilant but smart!

Earlier she took the responsibility of attracting the mobs. Besides the reasons she gave, she wanted to let Qin Ran understand that if he was the one attracting attention, their insecure bond would break immediately. Then both of them would be killed.

Qin Ran started to understand the reason behind her decisions at this moment.

As a result, he became more eager to communicate with her, and ... to cooperate.

It was always great to cooperate with someone smart.

Of course, you need to show your sincerity first.

"You see, we met each other twice, and cooperated twice. I think that we can keep helping each other during these god forsaken days!"

Facing the lady's hesitance and vigilance, he tucked the two guns into his waist and put his hands up.

His action exhibited absolute sincerity, and his words impressed the lady.

A few seconds later, the lady walked out.

"I have contributed as well. So I have the right to share some of the loot."

She said.

"Of course!" Qin Ran nodded.

During the battle, she definitely was a great contributor. If it wasn't for her attracting one of the gunman's attention, there was no way for Qin Ran to escape from the two mob's gun shots.

Hence, he didn't mind sharing the trophies with her.

In the next moment, he took one of the M1905 guns and gave it to her.



However, she ran to the headless corpse after Qin Ran agreed.

Their previous confrontation was definitely not an accident.

It must be for one or more things.

Although he was curious, now that he agreed to share the trophies, he would never regret.

He stayed at where he was, looking around in alert and waiting for the lady.

Very soon, she took a bag with her.

"I guess we need to find some private place. This place is too dangerous!"

Qin Ran said.

The gun fires would definitely attract some people here.

In reality, he could already feel a few malicious gazes on them right now.

The ones who would come and check out after a gun fired shouldn't be nice.

Even if Qin Ran had two guns, with only 6 bullets, he didn't want to battle with an unknown number of opponents.

"Come with me!" The lady suggested for him to follow her.

Apparently, she knew a lot more about the current situation after staying here for four months.

A battle was not horrible. The most terrifying was the endless war!

And to avoid this from happening, he needed to end the battle and leave immediately.

Luckily, this wasn't difficult for that lady.

Behind the lady, Qin turned left and turned right. Even sometimes when his feet were staggering, Qin Ran did not pause for a moment. He closely followed her pace.

They ran for about twenty minutes, then Qin and the lady came to the ruins of another place.

When the lady stopped, Qin stopped as well. Then they quickly looked around.

But Qin Ran did not find anything.

In fact, the ruins here were no different from the one they had seen before.

Collapsing walls, brick rubble, and broken rotten wood.

However, one thing was certain for Qin Ran.

After running for a while, the sounds of people following behind had faded. The guys behind them had been gotten rid of.

He was safe at this moment.

## Chapter 6: Rest

Qin Ran was temporarily safe. However, the lady was still listening and observing the surroundings for a while until she confirmed that no one was following them.

"Come with me!" she said.

Qin Ran immediately followed her into the ruins. After they crossed a number of beams and rubble, the lady pushed aside the sand in front of her. Qin Ran saw that there was a wooden partition behind it. The lady quietly lifted the partition, revealing to Qin Ran a stairway leading to underground.

"Come in!" The lady gestured at Qin Ran to go down. Qin Ran walked in without any hesitation. Through a glimmer of light, Qin Ran could see what the underground room looked like.

It was probably previously used as a storage room, filled with wooden shelves and a few tools.

Now, there was no one here. Judging from this, he believed it wasn't likely for there to be traps or those sorts of things.

Inside the storage room, Qin Ran stood in the corner and quietly waited for the lady to come down before he did his self-introduction.

"Hello, my name is Qin Ran!"

"Colleen! Are you a soldier?" She asked suspiciously.

Obviously, the way Qin Ran used the daggers was still ingrained in her mind.

"No, I just like martial arts..... I've just made use of my skills in this war! Also, I've never had any malicious intentions towards you from the very beginning. You should understand that if I wanted to hurt you, I wouldn't have had to go through so much trouble! "

Qin Ran noticed her doubt, so he carefully explained his identity to ease her anxiety.

Being a soldier during a war wasn't a good profession. Enemy soldiers had to be killed; even citizens wouldn't be allowed to live.

Wars brought out the cruelty and wickedness inside of people, especially when one side had an absolute advantage over another. Qin Ran could only imagine what the lady had witnessed from the soldiers' atrocities throughout the four months.

After all, in the task background of this instance, it mentioned the word "rebels".

Therefore, Qin Ran could not admit his identity as a so-called soldier.

Undoubtedly, what Qin Ran thought was very correct.

Perhaps it was his explanation which played a role in easing the lady.

After Qin Ran explained, the vigilance in the eyes of the lady immediately disappeared.

"I'm sorry, I should not have asked. But, you know, I had met a lot of rebels! Some of them were pretty nice, but some were not..."

Colleen frowned. She didn't know how to continue her words.

"There are always good and bad people!"

Qin Ran said.

Such discourse was not really comforting. It wasn't even a comment.

But, in such an environment, what he said was fairly appropriate.

That was why Colleen decided to trust Qin Ran, even if it was only temporary.

"Since you helped me, I can let you rest here for one day in return. But you have to leave tomorrow before dark!"

Colleen said.

"Thanks!" Qin Ran answered.

Although he wanted to ask about more information, it wasn't an appropriate time to do so.

Even though this was only a game, given that everything was so authentic, Qin Ran knew that if he did or said something inappropriate, there would be a series of reactions.

It could be good.

But could also be bad.

According to his experience, the latter one had a higher probability.

At least he couldn't explain why someone like himself who had experienced the war for four months wasn't even familiar with the city.

Moreover, he could imagine how Colleen would react if he asked something that conflicted with his identity.

He probably would lose the chance to stay safe for a whole day!

As a result, when he saw Colleen walk to a corner and started to rest, he walked to another corner and closed his eyes.

When he narrowed his eyes and tried to see, everything was dark.

As he was breathing, his recovering physical strength took away his physical fatigue.

However, he didn't feel like moving due to his mental fatigue.

The blood and deaths that were replaying in his mind made him tired.

He fell asleep soon after.

.....

When he heard some noise, Qin Ran woke up.

As he opened his eyes, he saw Colleen eating her cookies, which were her trophies from last night.

When she saw Qin Ran was looking, she turned stiff.

Food was unbelievably valuable during the war.

The bread and cookies that people threw away randomly in daily life could result in a battle at this moment.

Just like Coleen and the survivor who had a headshot last night.



Qin Ran understood what she meant. He took out his can to suggest her that he meant no harm.

From the beginning, Colleen's body was stiff. When Qin Ran took out his can, she relaxed.

When two people both had food, the risk of starting a fight decreased.

They didn't talk during the breakfast.

Colleen lowered her head thinking and Qin Ran was eating his food while looking at the system record.

First of all, "Main Task: Live for 7 Days" changed from "0/7" to "1/7".

Then, the "Character Attributes" had the status "Hunger".

When he finished the whole can, the status disappeared in the bar.

"It even had 'Hunger' in it!"

Qin Ran thought.

He had to praise how authentic an underground game was.

However, later on his praise turned into sigh.

Because if he had the “special circumstances” in this game, he had to work hard to collect more food.

Apparently, in this city, this wasn't an easy task.

“These could probably last for two to three days. But to keep myself strong enough to be able to fight...two days will be the most.”

Qin Ran looked at the rest of the two cans and one bottle of water, thinking about how much to consume each day.

The result was apparently not optimistic.

Coughing...

The coughing stopped Qin Ran's contemplation.

He saw Colleen had one hand over her mouth, while patting her chest with the other.

The dry biscuits were not easy to swallow.

“Have some water!”

Qin Ran picked up his water and handed it to Colleen.

She drank one-third of the water and stopped coughing.

"Thanks, thank you!"

Looking at the rest of the purified water, she was a bit embarrassed and quickly expressed her gratitude.

Food was essential in the war.

So was water.

In the war, anyone willing to share food or water proved that they were really a good person.

Therefore, facing such a good man, Colleen's attitude eased again.

She became happy to talk to Qin Ran now.

Which was what he expected.

"Before the war, what did you do?"

Colleen asked curiously.

"A student. Something happened later on so I became an Otaku! How

about you?"

Qin Ran was reciting his real life experience.

"I was a student, too. However, because of some fighting, drinking and other misconduct, I was sent to the service center. Then, before I finished my 200 hours' volunteer service, the war started. Although I was thankful that I no longer need to do volunteer anymore, I realized that I would rather volunteer than stay here!"

Colleen talked about herself as well.

She had been deliberately keeping her indifferent look. At this moment, however, she collapsed.

Qin Ran shrugged and continued to listen.

To protect themselves, people usually protected themselves with masks.

Especially during a war, where tragic sights and traumatizing events would occur everyday.

"I used to live at the Sixth Avenue, but the 'vulture' and his gang were even more hateful than locusts. They completely plundered all the resources so I had to come to the garden villa. Then he came here again! Nasty son of b\*\*ch! "

""Vulture'? Is that guy powerful?"

Once again he heard of the nickname so Qin Ran inquired.

"Qin Ran, of course you have not heard of him in other places!"

Colleen said.

" 'Vulture' was just a small fry before the war started. However, when the war started, he happened to be held in jail and got access to a number of weapons! After the rebels became more convergent, the guy became bold and took a group of guys the prison and started causing trouble on the Sixth Avenue!"

"Other organizations with thugs are afraid of 'vulture', because the guy is not only powerful, but also vindictive. Anyone who dared to offend his thugs or survivors, will meet a bad end. The last mob leader who offended him was hung on the telegraph poles and burned alive!"

Her words showed her familiarity of the "Vulture".

However, Colleen's face suddenly looked pale.

Because last night she killed two of Vulture's subordinates with Qin Ran.

Also, after Colleen explained, Qin Ran's face didn't look very well.

## Chapter 7 :The Second Skill

"It seems like I have gotten myself into big trouble! Heheh..."

Qin tried to play it off, but his words betrayed his feelings of tension.

His experiences when he was a teenager had already caused Qin Ran to develop a habit to not trust anyone.

Especially in the face of death!

"It's not just you that got in big trouble, but both of us! Yesterday evening, there were a lot of guys there! Those guys will definitely tip the 'Vulture' off in order to kiss his a\*\*! And knowing that two of his subordinates were killed, starting tonight, the 'Vulture' will launch all subordinates to find us! Only by killing us can he retain his reputation! "

Colleen said.

"My food storage can last for two days at most. What about you?"

Colleen looked up to Qin Ran.

"About the same as you!"

Qin Ran frankly opened his backpack, so Colleen could clearly see the remaining two cans inside.

Faced with such honesty from Qin Ran, Colleen walked toward the corner of the storage compartment, and pulled out a can and a packet of biscuits from under the shelf.

"Even if I try to eat less, these can last for two days at most!"

Colleen looked at the food with her brow wrinkled up.

Apparently, she didn't want to do this.

She didn't want to bear the hunger nor wait here and die.

"How many people could you handle at the same time?"

Colleen looked at Qin Ran and asked seriously.

"If they are not armed with guns...two to three people!"

Qin Ran soon understood what Colleen wanted to do.

Although yesterday he faced two thugs armed with firearms and completed a perfect battle, Qin Ran was very clear that luck played a great part in that battle.

If he didn't have Colleen's help, he would have already become a corpse.

Moreover, he also remembered the “Health” restrictions.

Once he reached the Health limit, he could not fight and would be ripped apart.

“Do we have to fight them head on?”

Thinking about his own characteristics and limitations, Qin Ran asked.

“What do you mean? Do you want a sneak attack?”

Colleen was stunned, but she soon realized his intentions.

“Yep. They have a large number of people with firearms, but we only have two. If we directly confront them, there is no change of winning! Sneak attack is the best choice!”

Qin Ran nodded, and then commented on Colleen’s analysis: “Didn’t you say that they were originally active in the Sixth Avenue? I guess you know more about the terrain there than they do. Also, if they want to look for us, they have to spread out. Even if they have a lot of people, when they spread out there shouldn’t be a large number of groups!”

“Colleen, don’t tell me that they have hundreds of people!”

Qin Ran asked in a more relaxed tone.



"Hundreds of people? That's impossible! They are not the army! 'Vulture' has only about twenty people. If there were several hundred people supporting that arrogant guy, they probably would have already attacked the rebel camp!"

Seeming to have been infected by Qin Ran, Colleen also joked.

However, very soon she became serious.

She looked at Qin Ran and said: "The Vultures gang members are not familiar with this area, but you aren't either."

Qin Ran nodded.

"Besides, even if you are good at using daggers, you were easily found by me. Are you sure that your sneak attack will be successful?"

Colleen continued.

Her suspicions stunned Qin Ran a little.

He knew that she was talking about last night. He made noise when he tried to hide from the two in confrontation, and Colleen found him.

"That was an accident! I promise it won't happen again. Also, we don't have a choice now. I don't feel like hiding here until I starve to death or get caught by the Vulture.

He tried to explain in order to convince Colleen.

He didn't want any accidents to his plan either, and he didn't mind to battle with the Vulture.

If he was facing some mobs or survivors, he would hide because he wasn't sure if they have something valuable for himself.

However, when facing the Vulture and his followers, it was different.

By looking at the guns on their waist, Qin Ran could know that they dropped equipment.

Although he didn't know the value of the guns in this underground game, it didn't prevent him from collecting. After all, he entered the game for money.

Simply put, as long as there was a sufficient harvest, he was willing to take the risk!

Moreover, he offended the Vulture already, and he had six days left in this episode. He would rather resolve the crisis himself than to stay in fear.

Qin Ran was definitely not a passive and cowardly guy.

He had fought with his viral gene disease for three years, which turned

him a tough person. He was way more mature than his peers.

He understood that not everything could be escaped from.

He wanted to go ahead and fight instead of waiting for his last moments.

Just like why he chose to enter this underground game without any protection. So did the Vulture and his guys.

Of course, if he could, Qin Ran didn't mind having a greater chance to win.

In reality, there was too little information about the underground game. He tried his best to look for some valuable information to help himself, yet he found nothing.

However, he did have some information on the Vulture and his guys.

From Colleen's tone, Qin Ran could guess that she was familiar with the Vulture, maybe she even tried confronting them before but failed.

Otherwise, she wouldn't be so angry.

Plus, her familiarity with the surroundings could be a great help.

Qin Ran definitely didn't want to give up this source of aid.

"Certainly, I don't want to hide here until I starve to death or to be caught. I agree with your plan, however, I believe we need to make it more complete.

Colleen said.

"How?"

Qin Ran asked.

"Like what I said yesterday, I am good at hiding. I think I can teach you some skills so that you will have more choices when you face them. Unfortunately,...I am not good at using firearms."

Colleen felt sorry about it.

Without a strong enough body and skills, firearms were the best choice for most people.

When a person who had learnt martial art for ten years was facing with a guy who learned to use a gun for three months, as long as the latter one was smart enough, with a certain distance, the former person would be the loser.

"Do you want to learn the dodge skill from me?"

Colleen asked.

[Colleen asked you to learn Dodge Skills. Yes/No?]

Immediately, a message box appeared.

“Skill teaching? Rookie skills mentor? Has my positive impression with her allowed me to meet the requirements for this?”

Qin Ran was guessing.

However, he answered: “My pleasure!”

Even one additional skill would make a great change to Qin Ran’s combat abilities right now. He certainly wished to have more skills. He was clear that without specific combat levels being provided, one’s skills and attributes were the measure of power.

And the two complemented each other.

The next moment he verified his guess.

When Qin Ran gave her a positive answer, Colleen started telling him about the dodge skill, and demonstrated herself. After her demonstration, the system prompt appeared.

[Agility has reached level F, according with the Dodge Skill’s requirement.]

[Learned skill: Dodge]

[Name: Dodge (Basic)]

[Related Attribute: Agility]

[Skill Type: Support]

[Effect: You understand how to dodge in a battle. The skill increases your Dodge Skills by 10%]

[Consumption: Health]

[Pre-requisite: Agility F]

[Note: You can use cartwheels, backflips, *etc.* to dodge from opponent's attack]

"Sure enough, attributes and skills complement each other!"

Comparing the system prompts with the two existing skills, Qin Ran came to a definite answer.

Moreover, Qin Ran also guessed that "as skills upgraded, the attributes are also increased".

However, he wasn't completely sure with little information.

"How was it? Do you understand?"

After demonstrating, Colleen looked at Qin Ran and asked.

Obviously, she felt discontent because Qin Ran got distracted when she was doing the demonstrations.

"I think I basically have mastered it!"

Qin Ran felt her discontent. In order for the plan to flow smoothly, he immediately took action to dispel Colleen's dissatisfaction.

He did a left and right cartwheel, then front and back flipping and two consecutive one-hand flips.

And this scene stunned Colleen.

"You learned gymnastics?"

Once she was a member of the school gymnastics team. So she knew that these actions needed at least two to three years' practice. A beginner could not even do the front and back flipping very well, not to mention the more difficult one-handed flipping.

"Nope. I like martial art very much. So I am more flexible than others."

He gave a reasonable answer.

Although the underground game didn't require him to keep his "game player" identity a secret, in such an authentic game, he figured it would be better to do so.

"Oh I see!"

Apparently Colleen accepted this answer.

Qin Ran again looked at his attribute "Health" bar.

It became 80 right now.



## Chapter 8 The Night

“Left and right cartwheels don’t have much consumption. The front and back flipping consumed 5 points of health each, and the one-handed flipping consumed 10 points each time!”

Qin Ran said to himself and looked at the two skills in the skill bar.

With no exception, all the consumptions noted on it were health based, yet none of them had an exact value noted.

“If there is no exact value, the magnitude of my actions must result in different consumptions!”

He came up with this conclusion based on previous battles and the actions he just performed.

Subsequently, Qin Ran looked at the various information recorded in the system.

There wasn’t any information about the value of physical consumptions.

However, the physical consumption did exist.

“Is there any hidden information? Or what?” Qin Ran frowned and guessed.

He had experienced with similar games before that they could have hidden information.

The hidden information would either be useless or have some important meaning.

In such an underground game, Qin Ran believed it would be the latter.

n, he could not find any of the clues to discovering hidden information.

As a result, Qin Ran didn't spend any time thinking about it.

"Qin, can you teach me a martial art?"

Colleen suddenly asked.

"No problem!"

He didn't have any reasons to reject her so he replied: "There are a lot of martial art skills, but I'm only familiar with using the dagger."

Qin Ran really did know about martial arts but only the fundamental knowledge, which couldn't be taught.

Except for skills.

After he learned the skills, not only had he become a veteran dagger, but he gained considerable related knowledge in his mind.

At least more than enough to teach someone else.

“That’s exactly what I want!”

Colleen laughed. Apparently she was satisfied with Qin Ran teaching her how to use a dagger.

After all, she had witnessed his dagger skills yesterday during the fight. He was fast, accurate and fatal.

Living in a war-torn environment, Colleen clearly knew the benefits of mastering a dagger.

Subsequently, Qin Ran explained on the side with detailed demonstration.

However, there was no system prompt for him teaching others.

Obviously, Qin Ran was only able to learn from others, but not teach someone else.

There might be restrictions in the game itself.

He also guessed that it might be his own low skill level.

He taught her from morning to the afternoon.

Then they took a rest.

To handle the battle tonight, both of them had to reserve their physical strength.

"Looks like I don't have much talent."

Colleen gave the dagger back to Qin Ran and shook her head.

"You already did a good job!"

Qin Ran said.

This wasn't him comforting her. He was telling the truth.

However, Colleen took it as just comforting words.

"Compared to you, I'm the world's stupidest person!"

She sighed. However, successfully surviving in the war for four months, she was tough enough and said: "Don't worry. I won't drag you behind tonight."

"I trust you!" Qin Ran smiled and nodded.

While taking a rest, they didn't sit idly. Colleen and Qin Ran perfected their plan.

Colleen was drawing with her fingers on the floor.

Soon, Qin Ran saw a schematic view of a garden villa area.

"This is the main road of the garden villa area. It's seven or eight feet wide, and it has a very wide field of vision, so we absolutely cannot have a fight here. If we are surrounded, we will definitely die. The best location should be around the villa ruins. It has places to hide, and the rubbles, wood and the walls are enough to destroy their numerical superiority." Colleen pointed at the sketch and said seriously.

"Then let's fight here!"

Qin Ran agreed.

For the 'stranger' Qin Ran, the survivor Colleen's proposal was exactly what he needed. Especially regarding the topography of the battlefield!

"What else do I need to pay attention to?" Qin Ran would definitely not let any chances to know about the surroundings go.

"Here there is another group of mobsters. And here..." Colleen warned Qin Ran.

It was already getting dark as they kept discussing.

.....

The “wolf” Hooker was the Vulture’s right-hand man. He was the most capable one.

At the moment, Hooker was with six men patrolling in the garden villa area. They all had firearm and body armors.

The six men looked around, while Hooker’s face was filled with rage. Someone even dared to challenge the famous Vulture!

You know, as the Vulture’s capable subordinate, Hooker was a large reason for the Vulture’s fame.

Hooker himself was very proud of it, especially when he got actual benefit from it.

When the other guys were hungry, he was able to eat, hold weapons, and get rid of any random people who he disliked.

For Hooker, this was the perfect life he desired. Any person who dared to try and destroy this life was his enemy.

So, after he confirmed the death of the two men after him, Hooker asked the Vulture to kill the two son of bi\*\*s himself!

“They should be in this area. Keep your eyes peeled! Remember, don’t stay too close to them because they have two firearms! Never relax even though there is a woman!”

Hooker shouted loudly.

“Yes, sir!”

The six men then walked toward the inner ruins.

However, every one of them had had a sense of arrogance. They had firearms, so what?

According with the Vulture’s rules, when everyone left the nest, they were only given four bullets. From Sixth Avenue to this place, their dead companions would waste one or two bullets because it was customary—after each shot, they liked to see how the survivors fled. This was one of their interests formed throughout the four months.

In this context, they were going to face the two bi\*\*es. Inevitably they would waste some bullets.

Therefore, even if the two bi\*\*es got two pistols, then what?

With only three to four bullets, the two of them were not a threat.

This time, the killing of two subordinates angered the Vulture, so he

sent several times the number of people out and gave them ample ammunition, and even body armor!

With the body vests, the subordinates were full of confidence.

Although the police body armors were not enough to deal with assault rifles, they were enough to deal with small caliber pistols.

Not only the six men thought so, so did Hooker.

Holding the firearm, Hooker followed closely behind the six men with his eyes scanning around.

He could not wait to kill the two bi\*\*es!

.....

Same with Qin Ran.

Qin Ran was hiding in a pile of rubbles, once the 'wolves' Hooker and his group of people appeared, they found each other.

In fact, it wasn't unexpected for Qin Ran that the other side quickly found his hiding place.

Although he avoided these guys last night, it wasn't difficult for the followers to predict the direction where Colleen and him were going.



Simply put, everything was expected.

And what he needed to do now was to wait quietly.

He wanted to wait for them to get close, and then give them a fatal blow.

This was not an easy task. It required great patience and considerable skill.

Fortunately, Qin Ran inherently had good patience.

And Qin Ran had gained considerable skill.

The two together made the confrontation easier.

It was even more possible when the opponents were overconfident.

Seven mobs lined up at a distance, then they started the search.

And the one passing by Qin Ran with a firearm was one of the least alert!

He looked undisciplined and was hanging around. He didn't know that someone was hiding in the rubble beside him. He didn't even glance there once. The guy simply looked around for places likely to

accommodate a person.

He would never believe that Qin Ran and Colleen would ever dare to be proactive.

In his perception, the two bi\*\*es should be hiding somewhere trembling.

So, when Qin Ran suddenly jumped out, the gunmen was off-guard.

Poof!

The sharp dagger directly cut his throat.

"Uh!"

Blood rushed into his trachea, so his last screams became muffled, hoarse and indistinct, and finally, with a look of disbelief, he was dragged by Qin into the ruins.

"The first one!"

Qin Ran picked up the firearm.

The cartridge clip was full.

With 7 bullets.

Qin Ran was excited.

Because to ensure the plan was successful, Qin Ran gave one firearm to Colleen, which had 5 bullets.

In fact, if not for sudden accidents, Qin Ran would give all his bullets to her—with only a few hours' training, she wasn't capable of applying the skills into actual combat.

And now there was a gun full of bullets. It was definitely a pleasant surprise for him.

However, the most exciting was the body armor!

# Chapter 9 Sneaking

[Name: T1 Body Armor]

[Type: Protection]

[Quality: Normal]

[DEF: 1. Normal defense for bullets. 2. Weak defense for cold weapons.]

[Attribute: None]

[Special Effect: None]

[Bring this effect out of this instance: Yes]

[Note: This is a police body armor. You still can't ignore the pain of bullets even if you are wearing it.]

As he picked up the body armor, the introduction about the [T1 Body Armor] appeared in front of Qin Ran. He quickly glanced over, then he put it on without hesitation.

Comparing with his jacket, which didn't have the slightest defense, the body armor was no doubt a lot better.

It could be both used to withstand bullets, and to defend against melee attacks.

Even if the latter defense was weak, Qin Ran had more confidence to complete his plan.

Qin Ran quietly approached his second target.

The second mobster didn't find out about his companion's death yet, although they were close to each other.

Just like the mobster Qin Ran killed previously, he was just searching around casually, oblivious to the upcoming danger.

Instead of laying in ambush, Qin Ran approached him quietly from behind.

When he was only two steps away, he jumped forward and covered the mobster's mouth so that he couldn't say a word. Then Qin Ran's dagger slit his throat.

In fact, Qin Ran's hands acted as though he was an practiced killer.

When the mob wanted to call for help and even wanted to bite Qin Ran's left hand, Qin's right hand had already cut his throat.

Blood flowed and, after a moment, he stopped moving.

[Vital attack: the opponent lost 100 health points.]

The same as before.

Qin then dragged the body into the ruins, before looting the equipment.

However, he didn't take the body armor. He only took away the [M1905] which was full of bullets.

He didn't mind wearing two body armors if he could.

Unfortunately, just wearing one made him felt clunky. If he wore one more, his agility might be affected.

The immediate situation would never allow Qin Ran to slow down, because it would only make Qin Ran a sitting duck in front of the mobsters' guns.

Even a highly defensive sitting duck would ultimately become Swiss cheese!

"Let's move on!" Qin Ran said. Then he kept sneaking in the ruins.

After he walked for about ten meters, Qin Ran hid into the shadows and slightly peeked out to scout his third target.

Unlike the first two mobsters who walked within the ruins, the third target was standing one meter above the ruins made of rubble and rotten wood. Qin Ran somehow didn't know where to start.

Because of its height, if Qin Ran approached from the front, he would be found even with some ruins blocking the vision.

Qin Ran was still not confident enough to ignore his opponents, even if he just killed two of them easily.

After all, the firearms were definitely not just decorations.

What about circumventing from the back?

Qin then looked at the objective's irregular surroundings, and had to give up the idea.

He did not want to be found when he was only half way so Qin made the decision.

Although he still had a M1905 and plenty of bullets, he didn't want to use a firearm too early.

Not just because the objective was wearing a bulletproof vest, and his shooting skill was not enough to hit the vital points, but also because once he started shooting, his position would be exposed!

Now he still had five targets to eliminate. Even if he made a plan with Colleen in advance, he didn't want a two to five fight.

"At least I have to get rid of two more of them!" With this in mind, Qin Ran began taking a long detour. If he wanted to get behind this third target, he would need to go the long way around. He first went back to where he killed his first objective, then he began circling around.

Ten minutes later, he was behind the armed thugs.

Relying on good vision, Qin Ran could see the locations of his last five targets. He soon discovered the third mobster.

The gunman was located, from Qin Ran's perspective, at the left.

At least two gunmen before were still bumbling around, yet the third objective simply lit a cigarette and started smoking in a corner.

His leisure appearance made himself the next target.

Qin Ran cautiously got closer to him.

While the other was completely focused on his cigarette, Qin Ran didn't lose his caution, because he knew that there was one thing called 'an accident' in this world. He wanted to avoid any small accidents from occurring. There was no way other than to be more cautious.

When Qin Ran was less than two meters from his target, yet the other



side still did not find Qin Ran. Suddenly, he saw a dagger thrusting towards him, but obviously it was too late.

Regardless of the cigarette burning, his mouth was covered and killed.

[Burning: you lost 1 health point]

[Vital attack: the opponent lost 100 health points.]

[Approaching your targets for three times without being found: you get the skill: Sneaking]

[Name: Sneaking(Basic)]

[Related attribute: Agility]

[Skill Type: Support]

[Effect: You are able to make use of the shadows so that you are not to be discovered. Increase 10% hiding skills]

[Consumption: Health]

[Pre-requisite: Agility F]

[Note: You know how to hide, but you are not invisible.]

While the target fell to the ground, the system gave him comprehension skills.

Suddenly, a slew of knowledge emerged in Qin Ran's mind.

He was already familiar with this process after experiencing it twice already.

After a moment, the knowledge transfer was completed. Qin Ran's body would be able to apply the knowledge he had just acquired.

"Three?"

While searching the body, Qin Ran was viewing the system prompt.

Just like [Dagger(Basic)] after three times, the figure 'three' attracted Qin Ran's attention.

"In the rookie episode, triggering the conditions three times would result in the corresponding skills?" Qin Ran guessed.

But soon, Qin Ran stopped thinking.

He remembered what he had to do at the moment, rather than staying here thinking about this. Later on he would have plenty of time!

But now?

Qin then look to the remaining four mobsters. The [Sneaking] knowledge again surfaced in his mind.

He silently walked into the shadow, along with the shadow of the moon and the ruins, he came closer to his next target.

Before Qin Ran's speed was close to the rate of crawling, but this time, it had evolved into a normal walking speed.

Moreover, he was more hidden, and there was no sound.

As if he was the best street thief at night.

Or ..... an assassin.

The fourth!

The fifth!

Two gunmen stood in front of Qin Ran, who had just obtained the skill [Sneaking(Basic)]. They had a lot more vigilance than the three earlier, but the result remains unchanged: Qin cut off their throats from behind!

At this moment, the wolf Hooker noticed that something wasn't going right.

Seven companions were searching in the ruins. If he couldn't see one or two of them, it would be normal. However, he couldn't see most of them right now. Even an idiot would notice something was wrong.

Hooker was definitely not an idiot, or he wouldn't have become the Vulture's right hand man.

However, his arrogance made him no different from an idiot.

Even...more stupid than an idiot!

He looked around. When he couldn't see more people, he started yelling: "Tony! Jack! Phillips...What are you guys doing? Come here right now!"

He yelled and tightly held onto his gun.

There was no answer. Suddenly, the surrounding ruins that Hooker was previously familiar with became eerie and unsettling.

The shadow created by the moon light and the ruins were like devils staring, which made the Wolf sweat and nervous.

When the wind blew, the Wolf Hooker couldn't help sneezing.

"Hooker's head!"

The sudden voice stunned Hooker. When he noticed that it was his companion, he was immediately annoyed.

"You...!"

Bang!

Before he finished talking, a gunshot fired.

The third objective that Qin Ran avoided on purpose earlier fell to the ground.

However, he didn't die because of his body armor.

In contrast, as he fell, he immediately turned around and started shooting toward the direction where the gun shot started.

And Hooker, who witnessed the whole process started shooting crazily toward the gunfire.

Bang bang bang!

At the moment, there came a stream of gunfire.

## Chapter 10 Headshot

The bullets hit on the collapsed walls and rotting wood. Suddenly, broken bricks and wood chips were flying everywhere. Immediately after the shot, Qin Ran did a side flip and left the position he was at.

He thanked Colleen under his breathe. Without the skill [dodging], he was bound to be under the collapsed wall after a burst of gunfire.

Bang bang bang!

The gunfire still continued.

Obviously, Qin Ran's previous shot frightened his target, who was now anxious to kill him behind the wall.

However, leaving aside whether the [M1905] bullets could even punch through the cement walls, even if they could penetrate, the result would let his target down because Qin Ran had left his original spot.

Whew!

Leaning against the wall, Qin Ran took a deep breath and held his [M1905] tight while waiting for an opportunity.

The previous shot wasn't the opportunity he wanted.

In fact, if his target didn't find him, Qin Ran would continue to use his [Sneaking(Basic)] and [Cold Weapon-Dagger(Basic)] skills to eliminate the remaining targets, instead of shooting.

Just like what he expected, he wasn't good at shooting!

Even if he was less than 10 meters away from his target, he couldn't hit any vital spots.

[Shooting: 50 points damage to health. The body armor nullifies 45 points of damage. Effective attack: 5 points damage.]

Looking at his own battle record, he could only shake his head.

If he could hit the head which wasn't under the body armor's protection, his target would have died already.

Not like this moment: there were still two of them left!

However, similarly, there were also two people on his side!

Bang!

An unexpected gunshot sounded harshly .

"Ah! My leg! My leg!" The gunman's screams were very clear.

Colleen!

After the fighting began, the hiding Colleen finally joined the battle.

According to their plan, Qin Ran was the spiker. Only when Qin became surrounded by others or suppressed by gunfire would Colleen come out, and create opportunities for Qin Ran to escape or fight back.

What was happening now had proved that Colleen did a great job.

Without hesitation, Qin lifted his [M1905]!

Bang, bang! Consecutive two shots.

Although Colleen created opportunities for him, the result wasn't good.

The first shot was in the area covered by the body armor, and the second shot was off-target.

"Damn!" Qin Ran cursed, then quickly moved because he saw that his target had raised his gun.

"Rookie! Gun rookie! Ha ha ha!" The Wolf Hooker couldn't help grinning aloud.

At the beginning his subordinates' death did shocked him, so he



thought that he met someone hard to deal with. This even made him very anxious.

And later on, the sudden shot killed his only subordinate left, which made him even more nervous.

Eventually, it evolved into despair!

Hooker had come to terms with the idea that he was going to die. However, Qin Ran's two shots calmed him down.

Because the guy in front of him was not an expert. He was just a rookie! At least, a gun rookie!

With distance less than ten meters shooting completely immobile objects, Qin Ran was still off-target. He was definitely a miserable rookie.

As long as not he didn't get too close, he could easily win!

Simply put, if Hooker kept Qin away, he wouldn't die today!

As for the other shooting guy?

Looking at his subordinate holding his leg, Hooker was smart that he didn't choose Colleen as his opponent. It would be stupid if he didn't choose the rookie as his target.

Hooker carefully avoided Colleen's shooting angle, faced the moaning men and shouted: "Go ahead and lure that guy out."

Then, Hooker pointed at the guy with a gun.

"Boss! You can't do that!"

The gunmen said, then he also raised his gun.

However, Hooker sarcastically smiled.

"Do you still have bullets?" Hooker asked coldly.

The gunman was stunned for a moment.

The gunman fell into panic when he was attacked so that he started a burst of fire without seeing his target clearly.

Therefore, he did not calculate his bullet consumption.

He started to sweat. However, he didn't intend to be a bait.

"Boss! I believe you don't have any bullets left either, right?"

He started laughing.

"It seems that you still do not understand why I am the leader, and you are just an ordinary follower!"

Hooker said. Then he took out a cartridge clip full of bullets: "You see? Every time I came out, the boss Vulture will give me two extra clips in case of accidents like this! Hurry up! Or I don't mind killing you myself!"

Hooker raised his gun impatiently.

The gunman believed that if he didn't walk out right now, Hooker would shoot him.

He knew how ruthless Hooker was already. So he chose to compromise.

After all, if he just went out, the rookie might not be able to kill him. If he chose to stay, he would definitely die right away.

You know, to be the Vulture's right hand, Hooker was absolutely something, especially his shooting skills.

The gunmen then climbed out of the bunker.

As soon as Qin Ran witness the scene, he almost instantly understood their plan.

He clearly heard the "rookie" comment.

Qin Ran could imagine that if he started shooting, Hooker would come out and shoot him.

And he had only two options.

First, avoid!

Second, fight with them!

If you choose the former, the mobsters were likely to escape!

And the latter choice?

Based on his shooting skill, he would be killed for sure!

However, Qin Ran still chose the latter.

If it was in reality, Qin Ran would absolutely not choose to fight!

However, this was a game!

Even if the game was very authentic, it was still a game. Some of the settings wouldn't change no matter how real this game was.

For example, a bonus in the rookie episode!

In a rookie instance, as long as there were three valid triggers, he would be able to obtain the according skills.

Earlier on he made this speculation.

And he had great confidence in it!

Now, he had already achieved two effective shootings.

Just one more time, he could get the skills!

By that time, he would be able to win with his new skills.

Qin Ran had such confidence!

Although the mobs were familiar with firearms, their familiarity was absolutely not comparable with the level of skills in the game.

Otherwise, Qin Ran would have died already from their previous shooting.

Whew!

He took a deep breath and adjusted his state of mind. Then he raised his hands and aimed at the crawling gunman.

Bang!

The gun fired.

The bullet severely impacted the body armor, so much that the force pushed the guy backward.

Seeing this, Hooker stood up from the bunker and aimed at Qin Ran in the shadow. Qin Ran didn't dodge. Instead, he aimed at Hooker at the same time.

Seeing this, Hooker simply laughed with delight.

The situation was even simpler than he thought.

Qin Ran was more stupid than he imagined.

In his original plan, when Qin Ran found him, he would retract into the bunker. He didn't know that Qin Ran was about to fight with him face to face!

"Obviously this rookie wanted to fight recklessly!"

Hooker started grinning.

Originally he only intended to escape. But now he didn't mind taking Qin Ran's life.

You know, he took six men out, and all of them died. If he couldn't make an explanation, he didn't now how to face the Vulture when he came back.

Thinking of the Vulture's harsh means of punishment, the Wolf Hooker couldn't help shivering.

In fact, Hooker had thought that after he escaped, he would go directly to another area, staying way from the Vulture.

With his weapons in hand, even if he wouldn't be as care-free as when he was with the Vulture, they were enough for him to survive.

But who thought that Qin Ran would actually choose to fight him himself.

"If I can kill one of the guys, the Vulture wouldn't blame me anymore!"

Thinking of it, he became hopeful. If he could, he wouldn't want to leave his beautiful nest.

"Go to hell!"

Hooker pulled the trigger.

Bang!

However, Qin Ran pulled the trigger before Hooker.

"He is just a rookie!"

He was initially surprised, but soon he consoled himself.

Next, he didn't know anything.

Because his head had exploded like a watermelon.



# Chapter 11 The Plan

[Shooting: Vital attack. The opponent dies.]

The battle record immediately appeared in front of Qin Ran. Looking at the headless body, he quickly walked over to the unconscious mobster. As he walked, he looked at his skill bar.

[Effective attack 3 times. New skill: Gunpowder weapons(light), (basic).]

[Name: Gunpowder weapons(light), (basic).]

[Related attributes: Power, Feeling]

[Skill type: Attack]

[Effect: You know how to use pistols, assault rifles, muskets and sniper rifles. Increase 10% damage.]

[Consumption: Health]

[Note: You know how to use firearms, but don't think you are an expert!]

Just like [Cold Weapons(Dagger), (Basic)], Qin Ran was like an experienced gunman right now. He didn't only know the basic

information on operation of firearms, but also understood how to maximize the power of his weapons. Just like before, when he gave Hooker a head shot.

Although he had experience with the power of skills several times, each time he became excited. Instantly acquiring knowledge and changes in his body gave Qin Ran a more profound understanding of underground games.

Meanwhile, he cherished the rookie episode even more. He didn't know how much more effort he would have to pay when he finished the rookie chapter and enter into the real chapters. At least it was clearly impossible to get a new skill with only three effective instances of behavior.

The condition might rise to up to thirty times! And even more!

This obviously increased the difficulty of the game, and in this almost authentic underground game, the greater the difficulty the greater the danger!

So, if he could, then he would definitely choose to learn more skills during the rookie chapter. And in front of him, there was a good chance.

Qin Ran walked to the remaining thug, bent down and stared at him.

"Don't kill me! Don't kill me! I have nothing to do with this! My boss forced me!" When Qin Ran got close, he cried for mercy.

Without weapons and numerical strength, he was like a toothless tiger,

even more miserable than ordinary survivors.

Looking at his tears all over his face, Qin Ran frowned.

However, in the next moment, he hit the guy in the face. Then the second hit, the third hit.

After his third attack, the system notice voiced.

[Boxing: 1 point damage to health]

[Boxing: 2 points damage to health]

[Boxing: 1 point damage to health]

.....

[Three effective attacks. New skill: Unarmed combat(basic)]

[Name: Unarmed combat(basic)]

[Related attribute: Power, Agility, Health]

[Skill type: Attack]

[Effect: You know how to use your fists, legs and feet to fight. Increases

10% damage.]

[Consumption: Health]

[Note: Amateurish boxer level!]

Knowledge came to his mind. As he squeezed his fists, he could clearly feel a source of power emerging from his fists.

Then, Qin Ran suddenly threw a punch and severely hit the mob in his cheek.

According to his knowledge, where he hit was the trigeminal nerve. Once it was struck with enough strength, it would make people dizzy, or even cause them to directly enter a coma.

This was true in fact.

Looking at the guy falling into a coma, Qin Ran was satisfied and stood up.

He once again felt the power of his skills. However, Qin Ran was still not satisfied.

In his plan, at least there were a few more skills that he could obtain from this guy.

Of course, Qin Ran wasn't in a rush. His eyes started looking for his partner.

"Qin Ran, you are not going to let him go, right? In all the guys that work for the Vulture, there are no good men! Beating him unconscious is not enough for his redemption!" Colleen said.

During the four months, Colleen had realized what hell looked like. And in this hell, there were some heinous and hate-worthy guys.

Vulture and his subordinates were no doubt a part of them.

"No! I'm not letting him go!"

Qin Ran shook his head. Although he had mercy in his heart, he would not give mercy to his opponents. No matter if it was in a game or in reality.

"And you...?"

Colleen was confused.

"Could you help me to clean the battlefield? You know we have a lot of trophies!"

Qin Ran laughed and looked at Colleen. However, she didn't act right away. Qin Ran shrugged his shoulders. He knew that if he couldn't give an explanation, the restless girl wouldn't go.

Qin Ran didn't directly express his intention, but pointed around and said: "I will tell you everything you want to know after you clean the battle field. I am guessing you don't want anyone else taking our trophies."

Then, Qin Ran quick started cleaning.

Colleen immediately followed.

After the previous battle, Colleen undoubtedly became more trusting in Qin Ran. She once again lowered her vigilance.

Moreover, Colleen agreed with what he just said.

Their loot should absolutely not be stolen by a group of thieves!

There were always some survivors and mobs who wanted to take advantage of others, and were not afraid of death. Thus, they couldn't rely on the gunfire keeping scavengers away.

And once these guys took their loot, then there would be trouble.

You know, there were firearms and body armors everywhere. If they were obtained by others, this would put Colleen and Qin Ran at risk.

Colleen could not let that happen. Qin Ran and Colleen rendezvoused a short time later. They both had several body armors and pistols.

Colleen was now surprised with the mobs' way of death.

Without exception, they all died from one-shot.

. This reminded her of the rebel soldiers. "No, no, not even ordinary rebel soldiers can do this. They must be one of those elites!" Colleen subconsciously thought.

There was a huge gap between the elite rebels and Qin Ran's way of introducing themselves. She had survived in the war for four long months. Even though it caused her daily suffering, she had survived and become far more mature than peers. She knew that everyone had a secret, even she had a curious secret as well. She wanted to know Qin Ran's secret but was willing to respect it, especially Qin Ran was so friendly to her.

Moreover, with Qin Ran keeping her accompany, she was much safer and she did not want to risk losing him. With him, she could probably survive until the end of this damn war. Qin Ran's eyes rested on Colleen's. He noticed something different on Colleen. But he couldn't tell what was different

. "Now, can I know?" Colleen asked.

"The Vulture should have his nest, right?" Qin Ran lowered his voice.

. Although he could not detect anyone in the vicinity, he had to better to be careful.

"Yes, it was originally a shopping mall at the Sixth Avenue. After the rebels came, they occupied that place, and call it their 'nest'" Colleen nodded.

. "And none of them know me, right?" Qin Ran asked.

Again, Colleen nodded, then she suddenly looked at Qin Ran in surprise.

"You are not going to sneak in, right?" Colleen asked, but she already knew the answer.

Before Qin Ran could reply, Colleen pointed at the mobster lying on the ground: "The Vulture will not let any stranger in. All the strangers are led by his subordinates, or they would be killed! Are you planning to let this guy bring you in? Don't even think about it! I can promise you that once he gets close to the nest, he will betray you! Then you will be hanged and burned!"

"I certainly won't do that!" Qin Ran smiled.

Colleen breathed a sigh of relief. "Thank god. We made a big victory here. If they come here two more times, the Vulture will lose all his followers!"

She didn't want Qin Ran to do anything stupid. After all, they had solved the biggest crisis that lay before them and they also got enough benefits.



"I will go by myself" Qin Ran decided.

Colleen visibly retracted, shocked at the change.

## Chapter 12 Interrogation

"Are you crazy?!" Colleen roared.

"No!" Qin Ran replied firmly.

"Well, do you understand what you are saying?" Colleen looked at Qin Ran like he was a madman.

"Of course, I know what I'm saying, and I know what I want to do. I know the Vulture's nest must be heavily guarded – but I have to do it ..... this is our only chance!" Qin Ran looked at Colleen and seriously said. "Vulture send his guys to crush us. He clearly didn't want us to live. Even though this time he failed, he will do it again! It will be even more dangerous next time! Just as you said, only if he kills us can he maintain his reputation, and to exhibit his ferocious side, this is the best way to save his face!"

"When the Vulture sends his people here again next time, they may not be easy to deal with. Their vigilance will make it difficult for us! We are not able to secretly attack them like this time anymore! And they will have better equipment. Don't tell me that before the war the entire police station maintained public securities only though these tiny pistols."

He pointed at their trophies.

"But...But..." Colleen frowned and wanted to say something, but she didn't say it.

Because she knew that what Qin Ran had just said was true.

Although she hated the Vulture, she couldn't deny the fact that the Vulture was indeed very powerful.

"As a result, we have to kill the Vulture before he realizes. Completely destroy him!" Qin Ran said.

"Okay, okay, I admit what you said was right. But you know it's not easy!" Colleen thought for a moment before raising her hands and compromised.

Although what Qin said made sense, she hoped that the plan could be more likely to succeed. Particularly when they had gained some advantages.

Her most immediate hope was to use some of the trophies to exchange for some goods, and live longer during this war, even if she had to hide all the time.

After all, this was what she did during the past four months.

However, Qin Ran was not the same!

Qin Ran was a player!

Furthermore, he wanted to get some money out of this game to cure

his illness!

So, he had to make himself powerful as soon as possible. Powerful enough to kill more enemy NPCs and get more weapons and equipment in exchange for his treatment costs.

The Vulture was definitely an enemy NPC, which Qin Ran would never let go.

As for hiding all the time during a game?

If Qin Ran was an ordinary player, he would consider about it.

But unfortunately, he was not.

"I know this is not easy, so we need to make it more probably to succeed and simpler. Colleen, could you help me pay attention to the surroundings? Oh right! May I borrow your kitchen knife?" Qin Ran pointed at the passing out mob on the ground and said to Colleen.

"Alright!" Colleen sighed and walked toward the other side of the ruins.

Colleen could not only hide there, but there was enough field of vision, allowing her to look around. Before leaving, Colleen left him a kitchen knife, like what he said.

This kitchen knife was Qin Ran's trophy originally.

He gave it to Colleen because of tonight's fight. Just in case.

At the moment, Qin Ran wanted to borrow, so Colleen obviously would not say anything.

Then what was Qin Ran doing?

Colleen guessed, but maintained a supportive attitude.

Living in the war, Colleen's view on morality had already changed. There wasn't a right or wrong answer. If what she did could make her life better, she would do it.

This was everyone's wish during a war! Colleen was no exception.

After Colleen walked to the other side, Qin Ran started looking at the prisoner in front of him.

He didn't know what Colleen was thinking. However, he knew that she was on his side, and he could trust her.

Qin Ran kicked the prisoner's leg and woke him up.

"I beg you, give me a break!" He once again begged for mercy.

"Well, I'll let you go as long as you tell me what I want to know!"

The gunman didn't know whether Qin Ran was deceiving him, yet he didn't have a choice, because he was helpless.

"What do you want to know?" The captured gunmen cautiously asked.

"Everything about the Vulture. Including your nest, and how many people he has!" Qin said.

"I don't know much about my boss. The nest is in a warehouse in a mall at the Sixth Avenue. We have twenty people...ah!"

He screamed.

Qin Ran suddenly cut one of his fingers.

"Shut up! You know I'm not asking for things everyone already knows. I want something people don't know! You have two more chances!" Qin Ran held the kitchen knife and look at the guy coldly.

The guy suddenly stopped screaming. Looking at Qin Ran with a bloody kitchen knife, his fear overcame his pain.

"As for how the Vulture became the boss, I really have no idea. He wasn't famous before, and his fame suddenly rose during the war. His nest is indeed in the underground warehouse. However, we have around 30 people – a few days ago he had a new group of people join our group."

Pain and fear made him tell something of actual substance.

Thirty people?

Twenty and thirty people were two entirely different concepts!

If it was the former, then, including the two gunmen Qin Ran killed yesterday plus the seven guys today, he would only need to face 11 enemies.

But now, he would need to face 21 of them!

Suddenly, Qin felt like his pressure had doubled!

But the next moment, he frowned and thought of another question.

"If there are thirty people living under this kind of situation, how do they afford their living necessities? Besides, it looks like you guys never lack food or water! The mall where the nest is located is only a shopping mall, not a grocery store. Don't tell me the Vulture brought all these necessities from the police station! You lied to me!"

Then, Qin Ran raised his kitchen knife.

Just like what he said, to afford 30 people's necessities was extremely difficult at this time.

This wasn't a peaceful era, and not even the start of the war.

The war had already lasted for four months. It had caused a shortage of all the necessities for living.

Even if Qin Ran had only stayed here for two days, he already felt how valuable food and water were.

And the guy in front of him didn't exhibit any hint of starvation and dehydration.

In contrast, he was not only strong, but full of vigor.

If only one person was like this, it could be explained by good luck. However, Qin Ran remembered that all the gunmen he had contact with were also like this.

Apparently they were not lacking food and water, and still had abundant resources. This meant they have at least enough living resources for thirty men to live for at least two to three weeks!

Even if the Vulture had weapons and numerical advantages over others, to accomplish this was impossible.

Unless they robbed a huge supermarket!

And it was impossible!



Because at the beginning of the war, the supermarket had been emptied by residents.

As a result, Qin Ran subconsciously believed that the guy lied to him.

"No! I'm not! The Vulture has his special channel to get all the resources!"

Looking at the knife, the guy hurried to explain.

"What channel?"

Qin Ran asked.

The guy showed a sign of hesitation. But Qin Ran acted without the slightest hesitation.

He raised the kitchen knife.

Another finger was chopped off.

"What!!" The gunman uttered.

"It seems you don't understand your situation. Do I need to remind you again?" Qin once again raised the knife.

"Rebels! Rebels!" The guy said immediately.

"The rebels?" Qin Ran thought for a moment.

Qin Ran couldn't believe that the Vulture had hooked up with the rebels. After all, according to Colleen and what the guy in front of him just said, the Vulture was just a small fry before the start of the war.

How could such a person have contact with the rebels?

"The Vulture boss caught some women. He sent some of these women to collaborate with the major rebels!"

Qin Ran suddenly clenched the handle. Qin Ran was not stupid. He certainly knew what kind of collaboration the Vulture and the rebels major were doing.

Qin Ran couldn't suppress his anger.

Then, the anger turned into his intention to kill.

However, when he saw the gunman, he looked calm.

"Well, you seem to understand our way of talking – Next, tell me everything about the nest layout and positions guarded by your members!"

However, Qin said.

"Okay, okay!"

Gunmen nodded, and told Qin Ran everything he knew.

And he didn't notice that Qin Ran became more and more indifferent.

## Chapter 13 Transfer

"Ah!" After continuous screams, the dagger finally pierced into his heart. His lips trembled, but didn't say a single extra word.

Qin Ran was watching all this coldly.

From the beginning, Qin Ran didn't intend to let the guy go. Especially when he realized that the Vulture used women to trade with the rebels. And all the guys with the Vulture were not good.

However, Qin Ran had a deeper understanding of what Colleen told him.

For Qin Ran, he didn't think of himself as a good man. He started to make a living since he was little, so he already witnessed the dark side of society. As a result, he couldn't simply confirm the true justice. However, he didn't think of himself as a bad guy either because at least he had a bottom line. Even in the last moment, he wouldn't harm anyone else for his own interest.

He didn't have to be nice, but he had to be kind. At least he wouldn't change this way of living.

This was his way of life. Therefore, he had to comply with it. Qin did not know whether he would change one day, but he wouldn't change now.

Whew!

Qin quickly backed out of his thoughts.

He knew it wasn't the time to think about this. He had to think about the current situation.

[Slashing: the opponent loss 10 health points.]

[Slashing: the opponent loss 10 health points.]

[Slashing: the opponent loss 10 health points.]

He looked at his system records.

The three records showed his effective attacks, but he didn't see a new skill.

Besides this, Qin Ran also made a few effective verbal intimidations on the mobster, but he didn't obtain any intimidation skills either.

"Comprehension of skills also has a limit! At least for verbal communication skills, like [Intimidation] and [Trade] didn't appear. Or I didn't use it in the right way. The knife is attributable to weapons. It should be appropriate for a skill! Unless...the game has a limit!" Qin Ran suddenly frowned.

He thought of a possibility.

Because it was a novice episode, the underground game might give some bonus to players but these benefits there not endless. They had limits!

In this episode, as long as there were three valid triggers, players would get the corresponding skills.

But it should be only one skill for each type of skill!

As long as a valid trigger happened three times, they will be able to obtain the appropriate skills! But it should be only for the first skill in each category!

Once he triggered the [Dagger (cold weapon)], he couldn't trigger any more cold weapon skills.

If he wanted to comprehend more skills, he had to follow the game rules, instead of the 'rookie episode' bonus rules.

"If it is like this....."Qin Ran frowned.

This was clearly beyond what he expected.

Originally, he captured the gunmen for getting information about the Vulture, but also he wanted to get more skills to make himself more powerful in a short time.

But the underground game designers already formulated corresponding rules to avoid this kind of thing occurring.

It would let you have the power to protect yourself, but not make you too strong for no reason.

After all, cheating would only ruin a game.

Although Qin Ran didn't mind to cheat in order to live longer, he had to follow the rules.

"I don't know once the first skill has been realized, and I want to enhance the level. Is it going to be in accordance with the bonus rules or the official rules?" Qin Ran guessed.

If it was the former rule, then it was good! But if the latter was the case, it would definitely make it more difficult for Qin Ran!

Now he didn't have enough information, so he couldn't get the right speculation. Finally, Qin Ran shook his head, then he stood up and waved to Colleen. Although he didn't make himself powerful in a short time, the rest was done. Also, he exceeded!

The gunmen didn't only tell him what he wanted, but told him the Vulture's biggest secret: He hooked up with the rebels.

"Bastard! How he can do this!" After he told Colleen about this, Colleen

was angry.

As a lady herself, she knew how these women suffered.

"That son of b\*\*ch. Even after death, he would go to hell!" She cursed.

"So, we need to send him to hell!" Qin Ran said.

"Yep!" Colleen agreed.

"However, before this, we need to handle our trophies. Only when they are properly sorted can we fight with the Vulture!" He pointed at the firearms and body armor.

Obviously they weren't going to give up the trophies, just like how every other player wanted to fill their warehouse and backpack with items.

Even if some of the loot didn't have high value.

Moreover, he didn't think that his trophies weren't valuable.

"I can do that!" Colleen said confidently.

"You are not going to bring them back to where we hid, right? Although that place was secret, it's no longer safe now!" Qin Ran asked.



Colleen's hiding place was very secluded and safe before last night.

However, after they exposed their general direction, the safety there was greatly lowered. The Vulture could search for them according to the general direction as well as others. Qin Ran didn't want his items to disappear after he had a fight with the Vulture.

In particular, if Qin Ran failed, these items were important materials for him to recover. He absolutely couldn't lose them. Facing the surge in the number of the Vulture, even with new skills, Qin Ran didn't have full confidence.

Naturally he would think about what to do after his failure.

"Am I that stupid? I have more than one hiding place. Bring your stuff and come with me!" Colleen immediately acted.

She first came back to where she stayed earlier, brought back all her useful stuff, and took Qin Ran outside of the garden villa.

Nine pistols in total were put in Qin Ran's backpack, with all the cans and other items, his backpack became full.

Colleen tied all the body armors together and carried them herself. Soon, she felt clumsy with her stuff.

Although Qin Ran carried a lot of stuff, he believed that he could take more. So he subconsciously wanted to help Colleen.

However, Colleen refused.

"If you want to complete your plan, you have to have enough strength. We don't have much food, water and time. If we can't arrive at my other place at the Sixth Avenue within an hour, it's impossible for you to complete your plan before dawn today!" Colleen said.

Qin Ran couldn't say anything to Colleen's statement. From his fight with the 7 guys to interrogation, it had been 3 hours. Right now it was 1 a.m. midnight.

At about 6 a.m. in the morning, the rebel patrols would appear in the streets.

Thus, Qin Ran only had less than five hours.

Including his time walking to the nest, he had less than four hours. It was definitely not a good news. Although he obtained enough information from the gunman, field investigation was a must, and this would also take time.

"We need to speed up!" Qin Ran said.

"Of course!" Colleen walked faster, and Qin Ran closely followed.

.....

45 minutes later, Colleen took Qin Ran into a half-collapsed house. There was supposed to be a two stories clothing store, judging on the broken models lying around the ground.

They climbed through a corridor. In the second half of the house, they found a gate to the underground warehouse.

"I worked here before the war started, so I knew there is a warehouse here. Here is safe enough. I take it as my last hiding place." She opened the door and said.

Qin Ran nodded and walked in. The warehouse was even larger than their former hiding place. Even when they brought all the items with them, it was still spacious.

Sitting in the warehouse, Qin Ran gave the rest of the water to Colleen.

"You need it more than I do." Colleen refused, although she felt extremely thirsty.

"Just take a sip!" Qin Ran insisted.

"Alright!" Colleen nodded and took a sip in order to moisturize her throat. Then she gave the water to Qin Ran. Even though he wanted her to have more, she refused.

Then Qin Ran drank over half of the water.

Colleen was thirsty, so he obviously was as well. Even more than Colleen because he moved a lot more in the last fight.

Even if his digitalized body could quickly regain his strength, some hidden conditions still existed.

Looking at Qin Ran drinking the water, Colleen knew that he was as thirsty as she was.

However, under such a situation, Qin Ran still thought of her. She was greatly touched.

Since the war started, this was the first time she was touched.

# Chapter 14 Sneak In

The night was getting darker. At the Sixth Avenue.

The originally prosperous downtown had been completely destroyed in the war, leaving a mess of rubble everywhere.

However, some buildings, because of their huge mass and sturdy frames, were kept intact. Of course, the “intact” was only in comparison with other ruins. For example, the Sixth Avenue department store!

As the city's largest department store, its groomed appearance had disappeared. Even the entire roof had collapsed. Looking at it from above, it looked like a tattered boot upside down.

But even so, it became one of the best havens for people in the war. The only thing unfortunate was.....

At the moment, it was occupied by a group of armed thugs. Outside of the mall, two gunmen had their eyes glancing around. However, their indifferent looks showed that they were doing it just for show.

Among all the survivors in the Sixth Avenue, all of them knew that this place was the Vulture's base. Starting from the time when a rebel was hung and burned to death in front of it, people knew that this place wouldn't be occupied by any other outsiders.

Moreover, there was another guy standing on top of the roof.

That was the real entrance guard.

Not only did he stand higher and see farther, but his weapon had a larger diameter and longer range than the [M1905], it was a more accurate sniper rifle.

From the two armed thugs' point of view, that guy was the real threat. Any strangers who got closer were killed by head shots.

"I want a cigarette!" A gunman said to another.

"Come on! Let's go!" The other one immediately agreed.

They walked directly into the mall. Smoking also needed a sheltered place and outside the mall, there wasn't such a place.

Two gunmen didn't have to walk through the main entrance of the mall. In fact, the walls surrounding malls had huge holes created by shells. Crawling directly through these holes could save them a lot of time.

The first man couldn't wait before quickly crawling through the hole. As the second man was just about to bend, a hand suddenly stretched out from behind and covered his mouth.

When he subconsciously whistling, he felt a sharp pain in his neck. Then he completely fell into the darkness of death.

[Piercing: 100 points damage to health. The opponent dies.]

"Come on!"

The gunman who first crawled in didn't see anything wrong. He started urging his fellow while also lighting a cigarette.

As he lit up the cigarette, a shadow suddenly rushed in from the pit, knocking him down with a dagger crossing the guy's neck. The gunmen had no time to respond.

[Piercing: 100 points damage to health. The opponent dies.]

Whew!

Successively killing two gunmen, Qin Ran stood up and took a deep breath.

Half an hour ago, he came close and quietly waited for this opportunity. With the [Sneaking] skill, it wasn't difficult for Qin Ran to sneak in the department store. What was difficult was not to disturb the two guys holding the guns and the other guy on the roof, and enter the underground warehouse. The warehouse door was damaged by the Vulture, so each time he opened it, he could hear a harsh noise.

It was hard to bypass the guards outside and directly open the warehouse door.

Especially since the gunmen on the roof had a sniper rifle, Qin Ran didn't let Colleen come with him, even if Colleen repeatedly asked to.

This was because Qin Ran had the confidence that he would be able to hide, whilst Colleen didn't.

Once he brought Colleen with him, not only would he expose himself, but Colleen couldn't escape from her death.

After all, according to the prisoner, the sniper on the roof had a pretty good shooting skill. Of course, his good skill was only in terms of these gun-toting thugs. When compared to real soldiers, he was unqualified.

Otherwise, the guy wouldn't have let Qin Ran sneak in. However, Qin Ran wouldn't underestimate him just because of this.

When he roughly searched the two bodies, he didn't find anything so he cautiously walked towards the roof.

As for the guns on the body?

With a gun and a clip full of bullets, more firearms would only affect Qin Ran's flexibility.

The reinforced concrete roof was collapsed into the mall, but the connection was not completely detached, and the height of the mall was far less than its width.



Thus, an alternative natural stair was created.

Qin Ran silently climbed to the top of the roof along the stairs, then he saw the sniper who made him concerned.

He was holding a sniper rifle, half-kneeled and keeping watch around the mall.

Undoubtedly, compared with the other two guards, this man had an extremely serious attitude. However, his skill level was still questionable.

Qin then quietly walked close to him, raised his dagger and his left hand as well.

Almost as if he had practiced for a thousand times, his left hand suddenly covered the guy's mouth, pulled back and moved the chin up so that he could see a greater area of the neck. Then his right hand, holding a dagger, rapidly swiped the neck.

Poof!

Blood suddenly ran out, which tinged the rifle on the ground.

The guy trembled, but his mouth was blocked by Qin Ran's hand. Qin Ran held him in his arms until he stopped shouting and trembling.

The original wound on his neck became wide open.

[Piercing: 100 points damage to health. The opponent dies.]

Combat information appeared. After confirming that the guy was dead, Qin Ran loosened his hand.

Qin then picked up the sniper rifle.

“What!” Qin Ran was surprised.

Because, until now, he found out that the so-called ‘sniper rifle’ was assembled together by a rifle and an additional awkward-looking sight.

Obviously, the two of them didn’t match.

[Name: M2]

[Type: Firearm]

[Quality: Normal]

[Ability power: Normal]

[Clip capacity: 20]

[Attribute: None]

[Special effect: None]

[Ability to bring out of the episode: Yes]

[Note: This is a 7.62mm rifle with maintenance. It's reliable.]

.....

[Name: Sight]

[Type: Firearm accessories]

[Quality: Impaired]

[Attribute: 4-8 times magnification]

[Special effect: None]

[Ability to bring out of the episode: Yes]

[Note: It's not supposed to be put on a rifle.]

Watching the system remarks, Qin Ran again looked at the uncanny sniper rifle, and ultimately left it on the side.

Even if it was a sniper rifle in the true sense, Qin Ran wouldn't bring it

because he needed a lighter load to make himself more flexible, and also the sniper rifle was too conspicuous, which would be a threat to his following plan.

You know, after Qin Ran got rid of the guards, he was going to mix into the Vulture's nest. From the beginning when he was killing the guards, he started this idea.

Even if Colleen mercilessly rejected, Qin Ran did not give up.

And when he was told that the Vulture had twenty-one instead of eleven guys left, Qin Ran confirmed this plan because Qin Ran was very clear on the fact that since the game had given him a skill, he could deal with 21 people by himself.

Qin Ran checked through everywhere on the roof making sure that nothing was wrong. Then he walked toward the underground warehouse.

He walked through the messy department store. Soon he found the entrance of the warehouse.

It was so conspicuous—

The door wasn't completely shut down, but less than half open.

From the gap, the light was bright inside the warehouse. Qin Ran could see the situation inside the warehouse.

There was a corridor wide enough to pass a truck in through, and he could see rooms on both sides.

According to what he knew, the warehouse wasn't a big mixed storage warehouse. It had a cement partition which divided it into small rooms for merchants to lease.

And now they had become the thugs' rooms.

Qin then slowly walked closer.

Unlike other survivors and thugs, these people had a very decent life. Their trade with the rebels provided them with adequate living materials, and also a diesel power machine.

However, this was a proof for them to go to hell!

Because the better these people lived, the more trades they must have had with the rebels. Then the more innocent women would also fall into the hands of the rebels. His heart was filled with killing intent, which created a cold atmosphere.

## Chapter 15 Killing

His sudden desire to kill urged him to move forward. However, as he walked into the warehouse and opened the noisy door, he suddenly put on an arrogant look similar to the gunmen.

"Damn it! Why do I have to stay here again? The other guys can drink, play cards and sleep! This is already the third time this week!"

Hearing the harsh sound, the warehouse guard walked out from a room inside, with his mouth repeatedly muttering.

When he saw Qin Ran's unfamiliar look, he raised his gun in surprise.

"Who are you?" He asked.

"Hey, man, I was introduced by Dylan as a new member. Hooker had agreed as well!"

Qin raised his hands up in the air to show that he wasn't hostile.

At the same time, he mentioned the prisoner's and Hooker's name.

The two names loosened the gunman's vigilance. However, he still didn't put down the gun.

"Dylan introduced you here? Why isn't he here with you?" He asked.

"Don't you know that he is on a mission with Hooker?" Qin Ran answered with a puzzled look.

"Certainly! Hooker and Dylan are going to find the two son of bi\*\*es who offended us! If I didn't have to guard here, I probably would have participated in the mission as well!" He started boasting.

"Really?" Qin Ran showed his suspicions, which made the gunmen in front of him angry. But then he was attracted by Qin Ran's words.

"Yes! There's really two son of bit\*\*es. However, the man had died, leaving the woman behind...She's been brought back and everyone is coming to see!"

"Really?!" The gunman's eyes turned bright.

"Of course! Hooker let me come here to bring Darter there!" Qin Ran was bullshitting.

However, the guy in front of him was fully convinced.

Because Darter was Hooker's brother!

If the Wolf didn't think he had brought enough people with him, these two guys would also join the mission.

"Hey, man, can I go talk to Darter now?" It was obvious what the answer would be.

According to the prisoner, although the Vulture was using women to trade with the rebels, he valued these women "highly". Besides the Vulture and Hooker, only a few capable followers could be awarded.

Like the man in front of him. Since he didn't have a good position, he never had the chance to get a "reward".

However, there were exceptions! These were women who were not part of the "goods". Obviously, Colleen was one of them. So, everything was self-evident.

"Go!"

The gunman in front of him waved his hands. He didn't care about Qin Ran anymore. With eager eyes, his whole body involuntarily moved out of the warehouse.

His rising desire already caused him to forget everything.

Until a strong hand covered his mouth! It was too late! The dagger had already cut his neck!

He couldn't do anything before he lost unconsciousness. Qin Ran quickly dragged the body into a room.



The room only had a chair in it. In fact, the most guarded place in the nest was the simplest.

He threw the body onto the chair, checked his clothes again to make sure that there weren't any blood stains. Then he walked deeper in to the warehouse.

Ignoring the noise from the other rooms and the diesel generators, he put all his focus on the end of the warehouse.

The Vulture was in the room at the end.

That was his ultimate goal of this trip!

If he could kill the Vulture, the nest would collapse. No matter how many mobsters were left, without adequate living necessities, they were no longer powerful.

What about the possibility that one of them will take over the Vulture's business?

The vulture would never tell any of his trade secrets, which were his main advantage over his followers. More importantly, if these mobsters had the chance to jump to the leader position, they would definitely have already started a huge internal conflict.

After contact with the gunmen who were indifferent about others' lives, Qin Ran was certain about his guess.

Therefore, the Vulture must die! Not just to eliminate trouble in the future, but also because this would affect his final evaluation and harvest.

End of the warehouse.

Unlike the previous rooms located on both sides of the corridor, there was only one room here facing the warehouse door. Its appearance was no different from other rooms, yet it was several times larger in area. After it became the Vulture's room, 80% of the nest's materials were inside.

Moreover, according to the prisoner, the Vulture was a very suspicious and possessive guy. Because in his room, there was not only wealth of material, but firearms and special "cargo"!

Qin then stood in front of the room and carefully listened, but the room was sound-insulated, so he couldn't hear anything.

Unable to get any information, Qin knocked on the door with his left hand while his right hand was holding the dagger.

"Who is it!" The voice sounded impatient.

"Vulture boss, Hooker is back!" According to his plan, he lied to the Vulture.

The Vulture didn't have the slightest doubt because he was confident

with Hooker's ability, and confident with his three-level-defense.

A bonus was that he thought that his power was enough to frighten everyone!

The next moment, he opened the door. A tall, thin man only wearing beach pants with his chest bare appeared in front of Qin Ran. He had thin cheeks, sunken eyes and thinning hair. Just like a live vulture.

He looked around. When he found that there was only one person, he asked: "Where is Hooker? What about the two son of bit\*\*es?"

"The guy is dead! We brought the woman back. She is with Hooker..." Then Qin Ran smiled to him.

At the same time, Qin Ran was sizing up the famous Vulture. He wasn't as strong and intimidating as Qin Ran imagined.

That naked upper body was so thin that the ribs were clearly visible. If the prisoner didn't describe him to Qin Ran, and Colleen didn't talk about him before, Qin Ran would not think that this person was the Vulture. He probably would of thought of him as a drug addict.

"Well, well well...Hooker!" Hearing Qin Ran's words, the Vulture grinned, revealing his dark teeth.

He did not care about what Hooker was doing. He only cared about whether Hooker had completed his task and whether he restored his reputation.

"He did a good job, I'll reward him!" The Vulture was about to close the door.

As for Qin Ran? Although he looked somewhat unfamiliar, he recently received a new group of people. Therefore, he did not mind.

More importantly, the Vulture didn't believe that his impregnable nest would allow any intruders.

So, when Qin Ran raised his right hand behind and stabbed the dagger into his neck, the Vulture didn't have any reactions.

"Uh!" Clutching the dagger in his neck, the Vulture retreated back. Qin Ran walked into the room and closed the door.

Bang!

At the moment he closed the door, the Vulture fell to the ground. His widened eyes were full of surprise and disbelief. To his death, he still didn't understand why Qin Ran wanted to kill him.

Poof!

Qin Ran pulled out the dagger and avoided the spray of blood.

Then, he looked around. First he saw a large bed, and in that bed, a girl was tied to the posts with her widened eyes looking at Qin Ran.

"Don't worry. I meant no harm!" Qin Ran subconsciously explained.

Suddenly, a phone was ringing.

Following the sound, Qin Ran saw a slightly old style and weird looking phone on the nightstand.

Qin Ran picked up the phone. On the white screen, he saw the caller ID: Captain!

## Chapter 16 The Captain

Captain! With such a title, and being in cahoots with the Vulture, he could only be the mysterious trader working with the rebels.

He looked at the white screen while the phone continuously rang in the background. Subconsciously, Qin wanted to hang up. He did not want to get involved with the rebels in this city because he was very clear that after he got rid of the Vulture, he became the enemy of the traders. If he got involved, he would certainly have a conflict with them.

Although he killed the Vulture easily, it didn't mean that Qin Ran was strong enough. He clearly knew how he got rid of the Vulture. Besides the powerful skills in the game, Qin Ran made great use of the Vulture's contempt on him. This was why he succeeded again and again!

However, the army was different. The army had unique disciplines, thus they would not make any stupid mistakes like the gunmen did. Even though they were rebels.

Plus, they were all well-trained and possessed more advanced equipment. With superior tactics and thousands of soldiers, if they started a battle with Qin Ran, it would be impossible to win. Qin Ran didn't want to face the whole army alone! He raised his thumb and pressed the hang-up key.

However, when he touched the key, he stopped. He thought about why he entered an underground game: To raise enough money to cure his

disease!

Besides, he only had a year to make it a reality!

This wasn't a long period of time. According to his game experience, if he converted this time to game time, it wouldn't be too long either!

As a result, he needed to take any opportunities to make himself powerful!

Only in this way could he accomplish his initial goal for joining this underground game: making money!

Any now there was a chance— The rebel captain! It was absolutely different to kill a mob leader and to kill a captain!

Even if this was his first time to experience a reality game, he was certain that if he could kill this captain, his game evaluation would be a level higher!

He started hesitating. He knew that the reward was enticing because it contained a lot of danger. He could even die because of it.

And if he died in the game, he died in reality. His rationality told him to be cautious, that he needed to give up!

But deep in his heart he wasn't willing. He asked himself: "If I give up this time because of the danger, what about next time?"

The answer was self-evident. If there was a first time, there will be a second.

If he gave up this time, he would give up the next time. Continuously!

How many times could he give up within a year?

"If there is not enough money for my treatment after a year, I will die! I might just take advantage of this ample time ... for a stroke!" The next moment, he raised his thumb to press the answer key.

"Vulture, I hope you made me wait because you have some good news for me!" A deep and machine-like tone passed through the handset to Qin Ran's ears.

The speech made an image of an indifferent looking soldier appear in Qin Ran's mind.

"If not, you know what will happen to you!" The other speaker did not wait for the answer and continued.

His tone was still like a machine, but the discourse was filled with aggression, as if a lion was oppressing a wolf. Undoubtedly, this was his daily attitude with the Vulture.

Clearly, the Vulture was definitely not respected by the traders. It was more like his party was dependent on the other party.



One party was the rebel captain, and the another party was only a guy who gathered a group of mobsters. If the two parties were equal, then it would be weird!

And if one party was really dependent on another, was the Vulture really just a women plunderer?

“Good news? It’s definitely not this woman! It should be something else!” Qin Ran thought.

Looking at the woman tied to the bed, apparently the “good news” was definitely not the woman in front of him!

Qin Ran frowned while trying to speculate the captain’s real purpose. Suddenly, he had an idea!

He thought of a sentence in the episode introduction:

“Suddenly the war swept through the city. People were completely unprepared!”

This was a city where there was a sudden outbreak of war! And when the war broke out, how many people could take away all their wealth?

The answer was none!

They would be lucky enough if they could bring a small part of their

wealth!

In fact, to be alive was already considered lucky. You could not afford to dream more in the war. However, there were exceptions!

For example: the rebels captain that Qin Ran was talking with!

His identity and power, coupled with the Vulture being his follower, this captain could accomplish something everyone else couldn't.

After Qin Ran understood the key point, he came up with a bold plan. Subsequently, Qin Ran spoke.

"The Vulture? You were looking for that guy? If you are, I'm sorry because you will be disappointed. Right now, for the foreseeable future, I am in charge of everything here!" He sounded excited.

Qin Ran was acting like a mob leader. The captain was silent.

Three seconds later, he started talking again.

"I do not care who you are! If you do not want to get into trouble, you'd better complete what the Vulture promised me!" The captain's machine-like tone didn't change.

"Are you threatening me?" Qin Ran said.

"I'm saying the truth! Don't forget where you guys get your food and water!" The captain answered.

This time, Qin Ran didn't immediately continue, but pretended to be silent.

He wanted to demonstrate a new 'host' boss eager to establish his dignity, but in order to ensure his position, he had to give up his dignity.

Because the captain was the independent side!

Without a food and water supply, no matter who, nobody could make those thugs obedient.

Qin Ran was unable to confirm whether his performance was perfect, but only by doing so could he deceive the captain. His goal was to make the other side believe that everything was under his control.

Only in this way, was he able to grasp the opportunity to transfer the Vulture's wealth. Simply put, he had to temporarily calm the captain.

Qin Ran didn't want to be trapped by rebels in this underground warehouse ten minutes later.

Although recently the rebels had a regular daily schedule, Qin Ran believed that as soon as they received any command, they wouldn't mind coming out and doing their job.

"Do you understand your position now?" Facing Qin Ran's silence, the mechanical tone was full of mockery.

Like a lion staring at an ungrateful rabbit swaggering around.

"All right! All right! You are the boss! I promise whatever the Vulture promised you. You're just looking for some women right? There is one in the Vulture's room right now!" His voice had a sense of reluctance, but was also a little bit pleased. Very awkward.

"Women?" The captain sneered. Then he continued: "What I want is the jewelry and priceless artwork. Now that you are in the Vulture's room right now, you should have seen them! I will send people there to take them tomorrow morning. At the same time, I will bring you more living necessities!"

Then he hung up the phone.

"Sure enough!" Qin Ran looked around before hanging up the phone too and thinking. The captain sponsored the Vulture not for women! His disdain was enough to explain everything. What he really wanted was the entire city's wealth!

Qin Ran's eyes subconsciously looked to the side of the big bed. There were two wardrobes, and they should be the only place to store items. As for the cage in the corner of the room?

Qin Ran glanced at it and soon understood what it was used for.

He then turned around and looked at the lady.

“Hi, I meant no harm! Now I will take the rag out of your mouth, but you need to promise me that you will not scream or do anything that put us in danger—although I killed the Vulture, he still has more followers outside this room! If you understand what I mean, then you can nod your head!”

The lady immediately nodded.

“Very good!”

Qin Ran pulled off the rag from her mouth.

# Chapter 17 Boom

*Cough CoughCough*

The lady started coughing. However, the lady, who was more like a little girl, in front of him remembered what Qin Ran had just told her. Even when she coughed she tried to lower her voice. Meanwhile she stared at him. What she meant was obvious. She wanted Qin Ran to untie her.

"Just a minute, can you introduce yourself? The more detailed, the better!" Qin Ran did not immediately untie the rope, but quickly inquired.

He needed to further determine whether the girl would cause trouble. Although she showed that she was cooperative, Qin Ran hoped that she could continue her behaviour.

After all, she was different from Colleen who had established trust with him. She was just a stranger. Even though she was a victim tied to a bed by the Vulture, this wasn't a reason for Qin Ran to relax.

"My name is Maggie, a nurse trainee at St. Joanna Hospital...before I hid in a tunnel at the subway station. There was an underground passage connecting to an abandoned bomb shelter! I was caught by them when I looking for food!"

After a slight hesitation, she started introducing herself. She also told him why she was here.

However, there was still something Qin Ran cared about.

"How did you find the underground passage?" Qin Ran asked.

"My father was a subway station maintenance worker. That's why I knew about it." The girl mentioned her father and looked gloomy.

This sadness meant that in this war-torn city, there was another person's life that had ended. Even for the closest people, she could only be gloomy. Because everyone was powerless.

"Sorry! But I still would like to ask, how many people do you have there?" Qin Ran apologized and continued.

"I was the last one to leave – although it was very safe, there was a lack of food and water. We had reserves at the beginning, but when the food and water ran out, everyone left. I was too timid so I didn't leave. I came out when I felt I couldn't survive anymore. However, I was caught as soon as I came out of the station!" Maggie said with her head down, not only because the natural cowardly personality, but also because she felt powerless when facing the Vulture.

"This was not a shameful thing. They are really dangerous mobsters. Most people couldn't be their opponents!" However, Qin Ran's comforting words made Maggie feel more shamed because she witnessed how Qin Ran easily killed the mob chieftain who she was afraid of.

“Well, we don’t have much time left. We need to leave as soon as we find the key items!” Qin then cut the rope with his dagger. When Maggie untied the ropes, Qin Ran was searching in the Vulture’s room.

However, even when searching, Qin Ran paid some attention to Maggie. Until now, Qin Ran still could not fully believe Maggie.

Although he did not find any contradictions from her words, without any experience with her like he had with Colleen, he wasn’t confident enough. Therefore, Qin Ran intentionally untied only her hands.

With his sharp dagger, he could definitely cut two more ropes.

Qin Ran didn’t mind whether Maggie had noticed his vigilance. The next moment he already opened the drawer closest to him.

There were a few things in it: a pistol, two clips and two grenades.

He was familiar with the [M1905] pistol, and the clips.

The most important discovery was the grenade!

[Name]: U-II

[Type]: Grenade

[Quality]: Normal



[Attack force]: Strong

[Attribute]: Facing non-guarded creatures, the power increases by 30%.

[Special Effect]: None

[Able to bring it out of the episode]: Yes

[Note]: This is a self-defense grenade. Make sure to protect yourself when you use it.

Looking at the information about the grenade, especially the attribute aspect, Qin Ran suddenly had an idea.

The next moment, Qin Ran quickly picked up two grenades and placed them inside his jacket pocket. With the pistols and the clips.

Then, he checked again to confirm there was no valuable items left. He soon walked to the two large wardrobes. And this time, Maggie was still fighting with the ropes tied on her ankles.

Qin Ran opened the two closet doors. Canned food, bottled water, firearms, ammunition, seemed like a pile of items in the supermarket.

Qin Ran took a look at them. There were more than thirty cans and boxes of bottled water.

Among six to seven [M1905] pistols, there was another [M12] two-edged assault rifle, and a big box full of golden bullets, layers upon layers.

“Woo!” Although he was prepared, he was somewhat stunned.

After all, if he took the food and water with him, they were enough to spend the rest of his task time. Even more than enough.

He picked up the [M12], carried it on his back and walked to another wardrobe. Like before, he opened the two doors.

It was neat compared to the one before.

Besides a large quantity of canned food and water, there was a shoulder bag.

Without hesitation, he picked it up.

It was quite heavy, so he had to lift it with both hands.

Qin then opened the zipper.

The bright reflective light made his eyes squint.

Burnished gold jewelry imbedded with colored gems were stocked in

this backpack without order.

Even mentally prepared, he stopped breathing when he really saw a whole bag of jewelries. Especially when he considered the value of them.

But then the game information quickly waked him up.

[Name]: Valuable jewelries

[Type]: Jewelry

[Quality]: Mixed

[Attribute]: None

[Special effect]: None

[Able to bring it out]: No

[Note]: You can choose to bring it to the captain, or do something else!

“Not able to take out?” Qin was disappointed.

Look at that name, he knew the value of these expensive jewelry.

If he could bring them out of this episode, he didn’t mind giving up his

plan and finding a place to spend the rest of the time safely.

Because, as described above, by name, these jewelries could accomplish his goal to this underground game.

Unfortunately, the game designers obviously knew this loophole.

If the game designers were to allow this package of jewelry to be brought out of the episode, then Qin Ran wouldn't be breaking into an occupied underground warehouse. Instead, he would have to break into the most advanced military base!

As for the Vulture who he easily killed?

At least it would be a well-rounded master. Might even be a MMA fighter!

All gains were accompanied by a corresponding level of difficulty! These were the rules of the game!

Unless ..... there was a BUG, or cheating! Qin Ran was only an underground game rookie. He couldn't find a game BUG. Not to mention cheating.

He zipped the bag and turned to Maggie. This time Maggie had untied the ropes, but was still sitting in bed without much reaction. Even when she saw so much food, water and firearms.

Whether it was really the case, or pretending, she had gained some goodwill.

The former showed that she was innocent, and the latter should that she knew how to make choices.

This was good for Qin Ran. Even if the latter would be a little trouble, as long as Qin Ran showed his great strength, then the girl would understand what to do.

"I'm going to solve the problems outside the room now. I'll be back soon!" Qin Ran then walked out of the room.

Like what he said, he was about to kill the rest of the mobs. And this wasn't his initial plan.

When he got the two grenades, everything changed.

Qin then went to the diesel generator. Next to him was the room there all the mobs gathered. The noise inside was still loud. They didn't find anything wrong. Qin Ran turned off the diesel generator.

Suddenly, the entire corridor turned dark.

"Damn! That broken machine is on strike again!"

"Go check it out! Otherwise, the Vulture boss will be angry!"

"We should look for more generators!"

The room was silent for a moment, followed by a series of cursing and complaining sounds.

Then, there was sound of footsteps. Then the door was opened by a gunman.

At the moment the door opened, Qin Ran started moving. He suddenly raised his left leg and severely kicked and stepped on the guy's belly.

Without preparedness, the guy screamed and tumbled back to his room.

At the same time, Qin Ran threw the grenade into the room.

"What happened?"

"What's wrong?"

Boom! The mobs started panicking. However, after the explosion, everything became silent.

